George M. O'Brien

LATE A REPRESENTATIVE FROM
ILLINOIS

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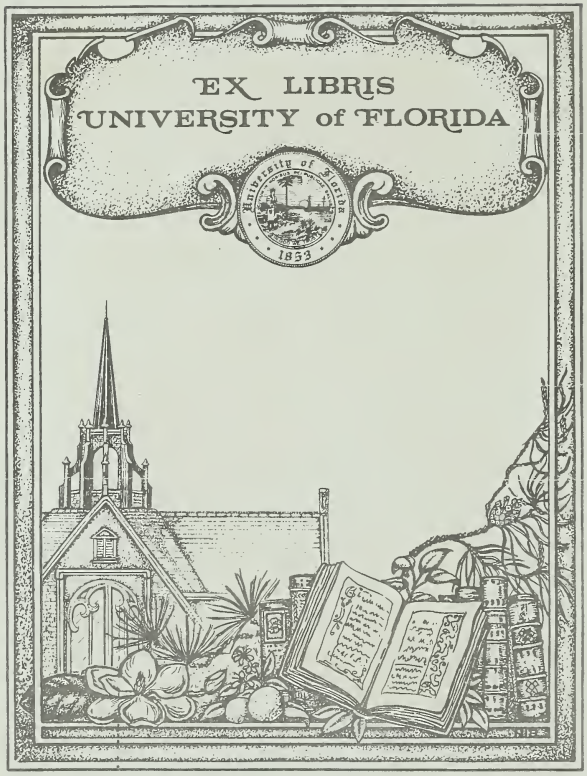
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Memorial Services

Held in the House of Representatives and Senate of the United States
together with tributes presented in eulogy of

George M. O'Brien

Late a Representative from Illinois

Ninety-ninth Congress
Second Session

U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE
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Biography

GEORGE M. O'BRIEN, Republican, of Joliet, IL; born in Chicago, IL, June 17, 1917; graduated Loyola Academy, Chicago, 1935; Northwestern University, A.B., Phi Beta Kappa, 1939; Yale Law School, J.D., 1947; lieutenant colonel, United States Air Force, served with 8th and 12th Air Force, 1941–45; associate, law firm of O'Brien, Hanrahan and Keogh, Chicago, 1947–51; partner, Gray, Thomas, Wallace and O'Brien, Joliet, 1951–66; senior partner, law firm of O'Brien, Garrison, Berard & Kusta, 1966–78; elected to Will County Board of Supervisors, 1956–64; assistant supervisor, Joliet township, 1956–64; member: Legislative Advisory Committee to Northeastern Illinois Planning Commission; State representative, 41st District of Illinois, 1971–72; member: American, Illinois, and Will County Bar Associations, Trial Lawyers Association of Illinois, American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Union League of Chicago, and Sigma Chi fraternity; a founder of the Joliet Boys Club; board of directors, St. Joseph's Hospital, Joliet; married Mary Lou Peyla of Joliet, 1947; two daughters: Caryl Isabel Bloch, and Mary Deborah Pershey, three grandsons, Bryan Matthew Pershey, Brandon O'Brien Bloch, and Anthony George Bloch; elected to the 93d Congress, November 7, 1972; reelected to each succeeding Congress; died in Bethesda, MD on July 17, 1986; interred at Resurrection Mausoleum, Lockport, IL.

MEMORIAL SERVICES

FOR

GEORGE M. O'BRIEN

Proceedings in the House

THURSDAY, *July 17, 1986.*

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Chairman, it is my sad duty to announce that at about 5:30 this evening our colleague, Mr. GEORGE O'BRIEN, passed away. I thought the body should know that now. I hope you will remember him in your prayers.

Mr. PRICE. Mr. Speaker, I offer a privileged resolution (H. Res. 500) and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

HOUSE RESOLUTION 500

Resolved, That the House has heard with profound sorrow of the death of the Honorable GEORGE M. O'BRIEN, a Representative from the State of Illinois.

Resolved, That a committee of such Members of the House as the Speaker may designate, together with such Members of the Senate as may be joined, be appointed to attend the funeral.

Resolved, That the Sergeant at Arms of the House be authorized and directed to take such steps as may be necessary for carrying out the provisions of these resolutions and that the necessary expenses in connection therewith be paid out of the contingent fund of the House.

Resolved, That the Clerk communicate these resolutions to the Senate and transmit a copy thereof to the family of the deceased.

Resolved, That when the House adjourns today, it adjourn as a further mark of respect to the memory of the deceased.

Mr. PRICE. Mr. Speaker, Members will be notified as soon as plans for services are complete. Members may contact the Office of the Sergeant at Arms for details when they are available.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the resolution.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 17 minutes p.m.), pursuant to House Resolution 500, the House

adjourned until Monday, July 21, 1986, at 12 noon in memory of the late Honorable GEORGE M. O'BRIEN.

MONDAY, *July 21, 1986.*

The Chaplain, Reverend James David Ford, D.D., offered the following prayer:

Gracious God, help us to see the grandeur and the glory of living even as we are aware of suffering in our world. May we develop attitudes of thanksgiving and hearts full of praise for the marvelous gifts of life and love that surround us day by day.

For Your gift of life, and for Your presence in every need, for Your forgiving spirit, for Your strength and hope that You freely impart, we offer this our prayer.

On this particular day, we pray for the family of GEORGE O'BRIEN. We are grateful for his good works among us, and we pray that Your peace that passes all understanding be with him and them now and evermore. Amen.

TUESDAY, *July 22, 1986.*

Dr. Ronald F. Christian, assistant to the bishop, American Lutheran Church, Fairfax, VA, offered the following prayer:

It is well, O God, that we pause to remember the death and give thanks for the life of a friend, colleague, and Member of the House of Representatives, GEORGE M. O'BRIEN. So, teach us all, Gracious God, to number our days and apply our hearts unto wisdom. Bless, we pray, those who sorrow and mourn whoever they may be and wherever they may live.

Heavenly Father, we humbly ask Your benediction on this day.

Bless us and keep us;
Shine Your face upon us and be gracious to us;
Allow us to see the beauty of Your countenance; and
Give us all Your peace.
Amen.

A message from the Senate by Mr. Hallen, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate agreed to the following resolution:

Resolved, That the Senate has heard with profound sorrow the announcement of the death of the Honorable GEORGE M. O'BRIEN, late a Representative from the State of Illinois.

Resolved, That the Secretary communicate these resolutions to the House of Representatives and transmit an enrolled copy thereof to the family of the deceased.

Resolved, That when the Senate recesses today, it recess as a further mark of respect to the memory of the deceased Representative.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair desires to announce that pursuant to House Resolution 500 and the order of the House of July 17, 1986, empowering the Speaker to appoint commissions, boards, and committees authorized by law or by the House, he did on Monday, July 21, 1986, appoint the following Members to attend the funeral of the late Honorable GEORGE M. O'BRIEN:

Mr. Price of Illinois; Mr. Michel of Illinois; Mr. Rostenkowski of Illinois; Mr. Yates of Illinois; Mr. Annunzio of Illinois; Mr. Crane of Illinois; Mr. Madigan of Illinois; Mrs. Collins of Illinois; Mr. Hyde of Illinois; Mr. Russo of Illinois; Mr. Porter of Illinois; Mrs. Martin of Illinois; Mr. Savage of Illinois; Mr. Durbin of Illinois; Mr. Evans of Illinois; Mr. Lipinski of Illinois; Mr. Hayes of Illinois; Mr. Gray of Illinois; Mr. Bruce of Illinois; Mr. Fawell of Illinois; Mr. Grotberg of Illinois; Mr. Conte of Massachusetts; Mr. Stratton of New York; Mr. McDade of Pennsylvania; Mr. Roybal of California; Mr. Myers of Indiana; Mr. Chappell of Florida; Mr. Stokes of Ohio; Mr. Hillis of Indiana; Mr. Gilman of New York; Mr. Moorhead of California; Mr. Regula of Ohio; Mr. Lagomarsino of California; Mr. Scheuer of New York; Mr. Early of Massachusetts; Mr. Jeffords of Vermont; Mr. Mineta of California; Mr. Solarz of New York; Mr. Pursell of Michigan; Mr. Rudd of Arizona; Mr. Clinger of Pennsylvania; Mr. Dannemeyer of California; Mr. Sensenbrenner of Wisconsin; Mr. Petri of Wisconsin; Mr. Dwyer of New Jersey; Mr. Gunderson of Wisconsin; Mr. Lowery of California; Mr. Rogers of Kentucky; Mr. Carr of Michigan; Mr. Dornan of California; and Mr. de Lugo of the Virgin Islands.

Thursday, July 31, 1986.

Mr. MICHEL. Mr. Speaker, the last time most of us saw GEORGE was right here in the House, standing right here in

the well at this microphone, during the debate on aid to the Contras in Nicaragua. The fact that he was here, the fact that he was able to stand, after pulling himself out of his wheelchair, was a testament to his courage and to his dedication to this institution.

It was one of the greatest moments, the most touching moments, I can ever recall as a Member of the House of Representatives.

That phrase of Lincoln's—"the last, full measure of devotion"—is not out of place when you recall GEORGE standing here, humbly acknowledging our standing ovation for his courage and his sense of duty.

He was quite a man and quite a patriot in his own quiet, gentle way.

Earlier this week, when the newspapers were filled with the great news of the release of Father Jenco, I thought of GEORGE's efforts to obtain Father Jenco's freedom.

Father Jenco was born in Joliet, IL. GEORGE, who represented that city, really performed above and beyond the call of duty to comfort Father Jenco's family and to explore every conceivable avenue of progress to help Father Jenco.

GEORGE went to Syria, he talked to world leaders, he worked unceasingly for Father Jenco's freedom.

Last year GEORGE came to my office with members of the Jenco family so they could tell me firsthand of their concerns. The family was frustrated in their attempts to gain the release of their beloved relative. That is understandable. But you could also tell that they trusted GEORGE, and that they knew he was doing his best for them.

I mention the Jenco case because in my mind it symbolizes GEORGE's approach to politics and people. He was warm, he was friendly, he was always ready to try to raise your spirits and get the job done.

In the political world, where so often we tend to forget, in the heat of battle, the human element, GEORGE was content to go his gentle, caring way. He was a genuinely nice human being. If anyone thinks such words are faint praise, I can only say that genuinely nice human beings are, in my experience, a rare and cherished commodity.

GEORGE was born on June 17, 1917, in Chicago. He was educated at Northwestern University and Yale University Law School. He served with the 8th and 12th Air Force during World War II. After service as a county supervisor and after other distinguished local service, both as an attorney and in public life, GEORGE was elected to the State legislature in

1971, and in 1972 he was elected to this House of Representatives.

I guess it was really right here in this body where I got to know GEORGE and his vivacious wife, Mary Lou, so well. In our Illinois delegation meetings we could always turn to GEORGE for a bit of levity and buoying up of our spirits when other people's dobbers may be down.

We served together on the Appropriations Committee, and I was most happy to support our late departed friend, Les Arends, in seeing that GEORGE was appointed to the Appropriations Committee and confirmed by the entire Republican Conference. We served, as a matter of fact, on the very same subcommittee, the old Health, Education and Welfare Committee. The bill that we were considering today would have been one of GEORGE's special pet bills to talk about, and he would contribute to the debate in this body in those deliberations.

We played golf a few times together, and, boy, those were wonderful times. He loved to participate and to compete, particularly when we had the Republican-Democratic outings. We socialized a great deal.

Our Illinois delegation is a closely knit group. We all like to get together and know one another's families. And GEORGE was always there telling Irish stories of one kind or another. He could tell them just about as good as the President down the street, and they were maybe just a bit funnier than some of those the President tells today.

Singing and harmonizing was his forte, and, of course, this Member loves that medium very much. There were any number of occasions when into the wee hours of the morning GEORGE just wanted to sing one more song for the occasion.

Many of us attended GEORGE's funeral out in his home community. It was a very moving ceremony at GEORGE's church. I am reminded that the Bishop that day said specifically, "May you have music all the days of your life," speaking of the music that was a part of GEORGE's life and making mention of the fact that he was such a loving, gentle, humorous individual. It was a beautiful service. There was a string orchestra there that, in combination with a chorus, did a beautiful job. Those who spoke on that occasion included the bishop and Senator Alan Dixon, the senior Senator from our State, and Congressman Carlos Moorhead from California, who spoke for Members of the House.

I must confess that if I were to have been called upon to make any of the appropriate comments at that time, I just do

not think, with the closeness of our relationship, that old Bob or a number of our colleagues that I see here this evening could have stood up without terrible emotional trauma.

So it was one of those beautiful services. And certainly we want to extend, yes, even at this belated hour, our unbounded sympathy to Caryl O'Brien Bloch and Mary Deborah Pershey, GEORGE's two daughters, and the grandchildren, Bryan, Brandon, and Anthony. I would say this to them: Your father and your grandfather was a dear, dear friend to so many of us. And I guess all of us would surely have to agree that we might not have known him but for the fact that the community of interest in politics brought us together in this body, and then finding ourselves working so closely together and then getting to know one another so well, we came to regard him as yes, a professional associate, but much, much more importantly, a dear personal friend.

We are going to miss GEORGE a great deal, as we did today in those deliberations. I am just very sad that we have to come to this juncture where we have to take a special order to eulogize one of our great departed friends, GEORGE O'BRIEN.

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, it is a sad moment when we have to commiserate among ourselves for the loss of a dear friend, someone we had counted on for years to be there and support us with his love and his laughter and all of the great Irish attributes that were uniquely GEORGE O'BRIEN's.

Mary Lou, his wife, and GEORGE made a beautiful couple in many, many different ways. They were inseparable. They were always ready to smile and always ready to inquire how you felt and how they could be helpful to you in your daily occupation.

GEORGE O'BRIEN was characterized by so many attributes. I would say courage is his most outstanding attribute. He faced his final illness with great courage and dignity and set an example for all of us in that regard. And as Alan Dixon said, he will always remember him for his last official act, which was for his country, when he came here and cast that difficult vote on that dramatic event.

Speaking of courage in political life, GEORGE O'BRIEN had the very unhappy, distasteful necessity of combatting a dear friend, Ed Derwinski, in a primary. GEORGE and Ed were the dearest of friends, but GEORGE was a Congressman who felt he owed it to his constituency to continue to represent them, so again, with grace and with gentleness but nontheless with vigor, GEORGE and Ed battled out a primary, and GEORGE won.

But he was courageous in other ways, too. He always stood up for the unborn. In that committee, the Appropriations Committee, it was not easy—and it is never easy—to defend the preborn because so many people do not see the issue as GEORGE saw it or as I saw it, but he could always be counted on to be there to cast that tough vote. And I am sure this evening that GEORGE is in the company of a lot of little souls that never made it to this world but knew that he was one of their great defenders.

GEORGE's sense of humor was magnificent. You could always count on him to lighten your day with a story or a limerick, and they were always uniquely Irish. I will never forget, because I have retold it so many times, the last joke he told me, which has a poignancy considering that GEORGE is no longer with us.

He told me that when he was in Ireland the last time, he roamed through cemeteries, copying down from tombstones things that amused him. And he brought this one back, and this is what it said:

"Here lies Brigadier General Bryan Mulroney, shot by his servant August 27, 1898."

And he said there was some scroll work and a few angels flying, and then at the bottom it said: "Well done, thou good and faithful servant."

Well, GEORGE O'BRIEN was a good and faithful servant to his family, to his community, and to his country, and certainly everything he did bears characterizing as well done.

Let me close by quoting a poem that GEORGE O'BRIEN quoted when Tennyson Guyer passed away. GEORGE made some beautiful, sweet remarks about our friend, Tenny Guyer, and in so doing he quoted a poem by Noel Coward which Noel Coward wrote about 6 months before his death and which was never published and which certainly applied to Tenny Guyer and certainly applies to GEORGE O'BRIEN. Here is what Noel Coward wrote:

When I have fears as Keats had fears of the moment I will cease to be,
I comfort myself with vanished years, remembered laughter, remembered tears, the peace of the tranquil sea,
And I think of my friends who are dead and gone,
How happy are they I cannot yet know,
But happy am I who loved them so.

Mr. Speaker, GEORGE O'BRIEN wanted to be Ambassador to Ireland. Now he is our Ambassador to Heaven.

Mr. SMITH of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I have never known a person, I do not believe, who was more gentle or honest or

sincere or helpful to his fellow man than GEORGE O'BRIEN. He was also thinking of other people.

Now, we served together. He was the ranking member of the subcommittee I am privileged to chair. He was also on the HHS Subcommittee on Appropriations where I have been for many, many years. I have seen him time after time after time be so concerned about the welfare of others whenever anything came up along that line.

We traveled together in many, many countries, because we had a responsibility for the State Department and the Commerce Department and export programs and others. He and his wife were very good travelers, but always there.

You could see that he was so concerned about other people. He could draw down on great experiences he had had in his lifetime. I remember things that happened in New York years ago, which happened in Chicago, and happened in the service, always valuable things that were in his background that were very important to us, but he was always also, although he was interested in the things on the subcommittee I chaired, he was very, very interested in the National Institutes of Health. Really, that is where he ended up giving a considerable amount of help in his closing days. I guess it is fitting that he had always been interested in the National Institutes of Health and issues that were out there.

We were always very sorry to hear, all of us I know, that his illness was more than back trouble. He had told me about his back trouble for a number of years and then he found out that it was more than back trouble that was causing this pain, so we were very sorry to hear about that.

But I remember the last words he said to me. I said, "GEORGE, we are praying, and anything we can do and anything we can think of, all we want is that you can finally get stronger and well."

And he said, "Neal, I'm getting stronger every day," and he knew he was not getting stronger. He did not want anyone to feel sorry for him. That was just shortly before he died. He was that kind of person.

We will miss GEORGE. Bea and I extend our heartfelt sympathy to his family in the days to come.

Mrs. MARTIN of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, occasionally when we are talking about a colleague, we make that person less than the full person they were in life. We list their virtues and sometimes miss then a little of the fire, so I am going to tell you that GEORGE had two faults.

One, he had a wonderful Irish temper and that was part of his edge and part of why he fought and part of his charm.

Second, and GEORGE, you know it is true, some of his jokes were dreadful. Oh, every single day GEORGE O'BRIEN told me a joke, because I am Irish, too. Because I am Irish, I am a perfect foil, but even I had to say sometimes, "GEORGE, that is simply the worst joke I have ever heard."

And GEORGE would say, "Well, I'll go tell it to someone else. Maybe they will have a different idea."

The other thing GEORGE would do, and I am not sure some of you know this, this is from Mary Lou, but it is also true because I have heard it from his district. He and Mary Lou had the kind of marriage that was envied enormously by other people in the district. When GEORGE went home and Mary Lou was not with him, he would tell an entire audience how much he missed her. That is right, a political audience, a rotary, a chamber of commerce, a labor union, he would way. "I miss her presence. I miss her scent."

Do you know what that did to every woman in the audience? They leaned over to their husbands, hit them on the head and said, "Why can't you be more like GEORGE O'BRIEN?"

Now, that could mean that GEORGE would be hated by the gentlemen, except it was obviously so real. That envy that men and women alike had for that relationship remains, because the years they had together are more than 100 years others could have had, because they were so much a part of each other.

They also had two daughters, and so do I. When I came here and I had never been to Washington before, both of them came up to me and wanted to know immediately about my children.

Now, there is very little you can ask another human being that they do not want to talk about, but when they meet your children and love them, and every single time talk about their daughters and your daughters, I just have to say from Julia Martin and Caroline Martin, they felt that Mary Lou and GEORGE O'BRIEN were the epitome of a beautiful, bright, caring couple, who were also part of the U.S. Congress and made it a little easier for them once in awhile to have a mother who was here.

There was only one thing wrong with GEORGE's funeral, not the number of friends there and not the beautiful kind of celebration by the bishop of Joliet and not the lack of a choir singing "Pontiff Angelicus." I think GEORGE would have wanted a

couple of jokes, because it was something he did for us every day.

Courage, sure; bright, yes, he went to Yale; loving, you bet, and caring and a friend.

And may I say to the gentleman from Illinois, Mr. Henry Hyde, yes, he is in heaven, but I think it is still OK for us to miss him.

GEORGE, we miss you a lot.

Mr. BOLAND. This is an institution that puts a premium on legislative achievement. I served with GEORGE on the Appropriations Committee, and for a short time on the Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, State, and the Judiciary. I can, therefore, attest to his skill as a legislator and believe me there was none better. But it is not only as a legislator that I will remember GEORGE. We often get so caught up in the work of the House that we forget that this institution, like most, is made up of people, and that it runs best when the people who serve in it treat each other with kindness and respect. That is how I will remember GEORGE O'BRIEN—as a man of great integrity and deep conviction who never failed to perform the little acts of kindness and civility. It is those acts that make it possible for a House composed of people with markedly different philosophies and personalities to function. The admiration and affection that GEORGE enjoyed on both sides of the aisle was a testament to the fact that he was, to put it quite simply, a genuinely nice guy. That quality helped make him as effective as he was. I think it explains why his death has left such a large void in this House.

Sometimes a single issue can encapsulate all of the qualities that define a person. The determination with which GEORGE O'BRIEN pursued the release of the Americans held captive in Lebanon, was that kind of issue. It was an issue that GEORGE kept alive, in this House, the media, and in the conduct of foreign policy. Certainly his interest was a product of his concern for one of the capitives, Father Lawrence Jenco, who had been a resident of his district. But I think GEORGE's commitment to winning the hostages' release went beyond the fact that a former constituent was in trouble. GEORGE truly empathized with the hostages and their families, and their cause literally became his own. Although his death came before Father Jenco's release, I believe GEORGE looked down on that happy event and was pleased; not because he had had a lot to do with it, but because the suffering of one American and his family had come to an end.

GEORGE O'BRIEN was a good and decent man who served the people of the United States with great distinction. I know that, that certain knowledge, will be of some comfort to his gracious and devoted wife, Mary Lou, and their two daughters and three grandsons at this difficult time. I extend my condolences to them, and to all the members of the O'Brien family.

Mr. CRANE. Mr. Speaker, I simply want to join in the tribute that we pay to our departed colleague tonight, and say that probably when you think about GEORGE, qualities come to mind that our distinguished colleague from just west of me in Illinois come to mind, and that is GEORGE' warmth, his smiles, his wit. I cannot think of a time that GEORGE O'BRIEN ever said a mean or unkind word about anyone. That kind of summarizes GEORGE, and yet we are in a rancorous body sometimes, and the last time GEORGE made his appearance here it was a very rancorous night.

He came on the floor in his wheelchair at the request, if he could make it, of our distingushed minority leader. I have told you that, Mr. Leader, that that was the nicest request that you could have made of GEORGE, because GEORGE was given the opportunity that night when he came on the floor over here in his wheelchair, and he did it at your request out of a sense of duty and loyalty, and he got the appropriate sendoff from this Chamber on a bipartisan basis that was appropriate, and he paid tribute to the collegial atmosphere of this body.

I want to pay a special tribute to our leader for appealing to him to come here that last night that he cast a vote. It turned out to be the last vote that GEORGE ever cast in his life, but I know that our leader has been criticized for appealing to a man who was ill, and in a wheelchair, to make a special effort to be here for what was a special vote from our perspective.

You should not feel any guilt over that, because the fact of the matter is that this body conveyed to GEORGE that night the special affection that we have for one another. It was one of the more resounding ovations—more than we normally give a President when he comes to deliver a State of the Union Address—an expression of affection from this body to someone who was very special to all of us. That is something that had to have been a lasting recollection to GEORGE in his declining moments. But more importantly to Mary Lou and to the children and to the grandchildren and the relatives, friends, loved ones, it was a kind of a tribute that was extraordinary. And you made that possible by making an appeal to GEORGE to do his

thing and do it consistent with what GEORGE believed to be right.

Mr. Speaker, the U.S. House of Representatives, the State of Illinois, and the Nation lost a friend and an outstanding servant when death took Congressman GEORGE O'BRIEN.

The native Chicagoan most admirably served his country and Illinois constituency for almost 14 years. He turned down certain reelection when he withdrew from a race this year upon learning of the seriousness of his illness.

GEORGE first served his country during World War II, rising to the rank of lieutenant colonel in the Army Air Corps.

The people of the Fourth Illinois Congressional District knew and trusted GEORGE O'BRIEN. They had seen him protect their interests for almost a decade and a half. They saw the results of his efforts. What they guessed but never witnessed was the ardor with which he fought for them behind the scenes on the many fronts of Washington's bureaucracy, as well as in the committees of Congress, and on the floor of the House of Representatives.

He considered the interests of his constituents as his first responsibility. The fight we remember best is the one he never gave up to revitalize the Joliet Army ammunition plant.

It is unfortunate that GEORGE did not live to see the release by his captors of the Reverend Lawrence M. Jenco of Joliet. Only days after the death of GEORGE, Father Jenco was given his freedom.

It was just about a year ago that the Congressman traveled to Damascus to confer with Syrian President Assad, seeking assistance from Assad in gaining the release of the priest. GEORGE O'BRIEN never gave up his fight to free Father Jenco.

GEORGE's final appearance here on the floor of House of Representatives provided a dramatic moment for all of us. Despite the severity of his illness, GEORGE left his sickbed and came to this Chamber in a wheelchair. He cast a vote in support of President Reagan's request for aid to the freedom fighters in Nicaragua, and then returned to the hospital. The President's request was approved by a narrow margin which GEORGE had so valiantly helped to create.

GEORGE O'BRIEN made life more pleasant for all of us who knew him with his refreshing smile, kind words, and Irish wit. More important, of course, GEORGE O'BRIEN dedicated his life to serving his constituents and his country. Our hearts go out to his loving wife Mary Lou, his daughters, relatives and friends. Our comfort comes from the knowledge that we

haven't said "goodbye", but rather, "so long, GEORGE, we'll be seeing you."

Mr. MICHEL. I thank the gentleman particularly for his personal reference there. It was a difficult call, but it was GEORGE's call, in combination with Mary Lou's.

Yes, I inquired as to whether or not our dear friend, GEORGE, would like to participate in that vote, recognizing that it was going to be a tight one. Yes, we would love to have his vote, we needed it, but, you know, follow doctor's orders.

It also served as a catalyst to garner several other votes, and so it was a very, very critical appearance that GEORGE made that night, and I think he recognized that. As the gentleman from Illinois has so well described the situation that evening, in retrospect, you know, it was a nice way for GEORGE to sing his swan song supposedly to this House of Representatives.

He really did it in superb fashion, and I was so visibly moved when I knew that it was rather painful, but it just seemed that there was a surge of some strength from the good Lord that would bring him from his wheelchair to this very microphone and make the kind of comments that he did in acknowledging that beautiful accolade that he received from all this standing House of Representatives. That was something very special, and it is something special that he bequeathed to all the rest of us, because for me it said now there is real respect and admiration of a man's peers in this very distinguished body. It was a moving moment.

Mr. GRAY of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise with mixed emotions. I am sad that we no longer have the great honor of serving with a dear friend, GEORGE O'BRIEN, but I am also happy when I think of his life and his work.

I remember coming back from Les Arends' funeral on the plane, and he told me this joke, and I have used it several times in meetings, and always got a big laugh.

He was telling about the Irishman who had been out one night and had a few too many to drink, and he was trying to get the key in the door, and his wife heard him about 4 o'clock in the morning. She got up and opened the door, and here is the Irishman all hung over like this, and his wife said, "What do you have to say for yourself?"

He said, "Well, Hon, I didn't come with a prepared speech, but I'm open to questions."

I have told that several times, and I always gave GEORGE the credit for it. I think that was the epitome of GEORGE. He was always outstretched arms and a big smile.

Like Henry I would like to dedicate a poem to the memory of this great American, this great father, this great citizen of our State of Illinois. I think embodied in this poem is really the life and works of GEORGE O'BRIEN, because he was always giving himself unselfishly for somebody else.

I saw an old man going down a lone highway,
When he came to the evening cold and gray.
And to a chasm vast and deep and wide,
The old man crossed over to the other side.
And when on the other side,
He turned back and built a bridge to span the tide.
"Old man," said a fellow pilgrim near,
"You're wasting your strength with building here.
Your journey may end with the passing of this day;
You may never again come this way.
You've already crossed the chasm vast and deep and wide,
Why build a bridge on the other side?"
"Oh," he lifted his old grey head,
"Good friend, in the path I have come," he said,
"There follows after me today, a youth whose feet must pass this way.
He too must cross in the twilight dim
Good friend, I'm building this bridge for him."

That is the life and the work of GEORGE O'BRIEN—always doing something for someone else. So I am happy to be able to rise and join you and our great delegation and these other friends from all over this great country in paying tribute to a great man, GEORGE O'BRIEN. Thank you so much.

Mr. LAGOMARSINO. Mr. Speaker, it has been well said here this evening about GEORGE's dedication to his country and devotion to his duties as representative of his constituents here in Washington.

I think those who recall GEORGE's efforts on behalf of American hostages in Lebanon rejoice with the news of the release of Father Martin Jenco. Father Jenco grew up in GEORGE's district.

It was almost ironic, I guess you could say, that that was one of the main themes at the funeral, which I had the privilege of attending.

I am sure GEORGE O'BRIEN's personal intervention with his meeting with Syrian President Assad last year contributed to the release of Father Jenco this past weekend.

Maybe, as our colleague, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. Crane) pointed out, maybe even somehow all of that did reach the hearts of those who had been holding him captive.

It is too bad that GEORGE was not alive to see that, but, of course, he knows it and is highly pleased.

In addition, GEORGE's contribution to the legislative process as ranking Republican on the Commerce, Justice, State, and Judiciary Subcommittee of the Appropriations Committee was instrumental in forging positions that could be supported by both sides. He promoted the policy initiatives of the administration while protecting the interests of his constituents and preserving the prerogatives of the House in the appropriations process. His warm, personal approach enabled him to achieve agreement through reason and cooperation rather than confrontation.

He was a nice man and a good friend of everyone.

I agree that one of the most moving experiences any of us have ever had was seeing GEORGE O'BRIEN come to the well on the night of June 25 on a vitally important matter.

You could see the transformation. When he came in, he was in a wheelchair; he looked very old and very sick, very feeble, but he managed to stand up and walk to the microphone and deliver a stirring address.

You could almost see him revived, as it were. I certainly agree with what the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. Crane) said earlier. I think that your asking him, Mr. Leader, to come here was not only something good for the cause, which it was, no question about that, but it was good for GEORGE O'BRIEN.

The way that his colleagues stood and applauded him was the real tribute to GEORGE O'BRIEN, far more than we do here tonight. That was something that is not afforded to many Members of this body.

I think that all of us are and should be grateful to you, as the gentleman from Illinois said.

My condolences and those of my wife Norma, go to his wife Mary Lou and his family. Their loss is our loss as well, but we can console them and ourselves with the knowledge that we had the privilege to know GEORGE and to serve with him, and that his efforts did make a difference for his constituents and for our country.

Again, his inspiration and example on June 25 are something that we can all take to heart and follow.

Mr. GAYDOS. Mr. Speaker, I consider it absolutely essential to be here personally on my own behalf and also on behalf of the Steel Caucus, to spread on the Record what I personally and what the caucus generally feel and felt about our good friend and colleague, GEORGE O'BRIEN.

It was some 10 years ago that we put the caucus together. GEORGE was a lynchpin in the concept of the Steel Caucus and

also in the many ramifications which transversed visits to the White House during the Nixon administration, the Ford administration, Jimmy Carter coming along and now into this President.

He helped form that Steel Caucus and I think that Steel Caucus speaks for itself on some of the issues that it has supported. On every one of those issues, GEORGE O'BRIEN, serving in the official capacity, because we do have and did have a bipartisian approach to the problems, as a vice chairman of the entire caucus, and then as vice chairman of the executive committee.

What he contributed, I think, is irreplaceable, because he gave us stability in the caucus. He was not only a good friend, but a mentor insofar as he has been around Congress for many years. We had the benefit of his sage advice. He was always a leveling factor in any of our controversies. As many of our colleagues have said on the Record, I agree, he was just a nice, dedicated, good colleague.

When GEORGE O'BRIEN would say something, GEORGE meant it and you could almost bet your life on it. That is the way it was. It was never tampered with. No addition was made to it and what he said was always based upon the facts.

He was a close, cooperative effective member of the Steel Caucus. Personally I would like to spread on the Record, on behalf of myself and even the sitting chairman now, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. Murtha) who asked me to make sure that I included him in these remarks.

First, we are going to miss him, and miss him so desperately and authentically. Second, I do not think we are going to be able to find a practical replacement for GEORGE. Yes, we will have other colleagues serve with us, but none in the method and the manner in which he served, with that unequaled personality, the sincerity and effectiveness that we all know surrounded GEORGE O'BRIEN from the day he got here until now, this unfortunate time that he is leaving us.

Based upon those personal observations over a 10-year period, I want to conclude by saying that it is my personal pleasure knowing him and working with him. I think the caucus benefited tremendously because of him. I think this Nation has lost a dedicated legislator.

I think, in conclusion, that although I know his family misses him, I think and I agree with others who have said where GEORGE O'BRIEN has gone is predestined. We all feel we are going to miss him terribly, but I know one thing. His mark is here; it is indelible, and I just hope that his family and grand-

children and all of his relatives, direct and indirect, have a chance to read some of these very gracious and sincere remarks including those that I have spread on the Record because I want to finally close by saying they have been put in the Record with the greatest sincerity I could muster on behalf of myself, my colleagues, and the entire Steel Caucus, and also the chairman, John Murtha.

Mr. MICHEL. I thank the gentleman for making mention of that very important role that GEORGE played in this House.

I remember that when the caucus was initially begun, and he emplored me as having a steel company in my own district, that I ought to become a member. And that he was a very forceful member of that organization, as the gentleman has indicated and it was one of his special likes because that was part of his district, it had to be represented, and sometimes even if it offended his own administration, the point had to be made and he could make it in such good grace, and I appreciate the gentleman's very valuable contribution to the eulogy.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to be able to rise to pay tribute to our esteemed collegue, the Congressman from Illinois GEORGE M. O'BRIEN. We are all saddened by his death. He was a dedicated American—an inspiring figure to all of us in this Chamber and to his constituents in the Fourth District of Illinois. Due to his outstanding service, Congressman O'BRIEN was chosen to serve seven consecutive terms in this body by his constituents in Chicago.

GEORGE O'BRIEN never lost his brilliance as an outstanding legislator and his good humor during his tenure in the House. He never hesitated to go it alone, as he stood firm by his beliefs.

GEORGE O'BRIEN was initially elected in 1972 along with the rest of us in the 93d Congress. Since that time I had been honored to serve with him and was proud to work with GEORGE, to seek his counsel on a variety of issues, and to call him "friend".

Throughout his 14 years in the House GEORGE O'BRIEN avoided confrontation, preferring to get results through cooperation. To quote his distinguished chairman, Neal Smith: "We were able to get together and work things out. He doesn't relish confrontation; he'd rather be effective."

The distinguished Senator from Illinois, Paul Simon said, "He was an honorable and superb public servant. He was kind and he was genuine. He had a good sense of where partisanship gives way to cooperation."

Not too long ago, before he traveled abroad to appeal to the Syrian President, Hafez Assad, about freeing our hostages in Lebanon, I had the opportunity to confer with GEORGE at length about his mission and was moved with regard to his deep concern for their well being. One of those hostages, Father Lawrence Martin Jenco, a native of GEORGE O'BRIEN's district, has now been released due in part to those efforts of Congressman O'BRIEN.

Most of us knew that GEORGE O'BRIEN was a lifelong resident of Chicago, but did not know that he was also a Phi Betta Kappa graduate of Northwestern University and a graduate of the Yale Law School. Nor did many of us know that GEORGE served in the 8th and 12th Air Forces during World War II and was discharged a lieutenant colonel.

To GEORGE's lovely devoted wife, Mary Lou; his two daughters, Caryl Isabel Bloch and Mary Deborah Pershey, and three grandsons, we join in offering our condolences.

Our 93d class will sorely miss our good friend and great colleague, GEORGE O'BRIEN. I am thankful that we all had the opportunity of being with and extending our acclamation to GEORGE when he courageously came to answer his last rollcall in the body.

Mr. AUCOIN. Mr. Speaker, I want to say to the gentleman and all of GEORGE's friends tonight that I had missed the notice that there was going to be this special order, and I happened to walk onto the floor and hear the eloquent and beautiful words being spoken by his friends tonight.

I did not want to leave without adding my own expression of deep admiration and frankly love for a human being that I think was matchless in the time I have been in the Congress.

I want to just share with my colleagues two experiences I had with GEORGE O'BRIEN. They were both memorable; I will certainly remember them always. It reminds me in many ways of what my colleague from Illinois, Ken Gray, said about GEORGE. He said he was always doing something for someone else.

When I was first elected to the Congress, I came with that large—Bob, I know you will remember this class—that large Democratic class of the 94th Congress, and there were so many people on the floor on opening day when we took the oath of office that I and my two children had to sit over on your side of the aisle because this side was packed.

I remember sitting right there in the middle of your colleagues, and sitting there right beside me was a friendly teddy

bear of a man, as Mr. Crane said; and he turned to me and he said "Hi, I'm GEORGE O'BRIEN." He said what is your name? I introduced myself. He took a special interest in my children and from that day until the last, he always inquired about how Stacy and Kelly were doing; he would remember the details of what their activities in school were, the colleges that they selected; and the caring this man showed was truly remarkable.

GEORGE also knew and made it a matter of his own personal concern that I came down with a kidney condition about 4 years ago, and no Member of the House on either side of the aisle has inquired more often as to how I was doing, and I am grateful that I have done well.

GEORGE was always concerned and always asking; that is the kind of guy he was. In fact, we worked together; he was a member of the Labor-HHS Committee. We worked together on something else that will be a monument to GEORGE O'BRIEN; and that is Regional Kidney Research Centers around the country.

GEORGE understood the problems of kidney disease and he worked very hard, and I worked with him on this, and I was amazed that the day after GEORGE's death, after the markup was complete, I got a call from his staff because his staff said GEORGE wanted me to know that the funding for those centers that we had worked for, for some 4 years, was in the bill heading to the floor.

GEORGE O'BRIEN holds a special place in my heart, and if I were to use a word to describe him, and maybe it is an important thing to state at a time when there are so many tensions across this center aisle that divides these two parties, is that he was a teacher.

He taught us that we are Democrats and we are Republicans; but we are more than that, we are human beings, real people, with real needs, real wants, real hopes, real dreams, and he reached out and touched each one of us in that sense, too.

As long as we can remember that lesson, I think we will be a better body and better individual Members as a result.

I am glad the gentleman has taken out this time, and I am glad that I have been able to participate and I am going to miss GEORGE, and I wish his family and all his loved ones my very best.

Mr. MADIGAN. Mr. Speaker, I would say to our distinguished leader that this evening has reminded me of what a special privilege it is to be a member of the Illinois congres-

sional delegation, because of the eloquent things that have been said here by you, by Mrs. Martin of Illinois, by Mr. Hyde and others.

I think that GEORGE O'BRIEN, if he were here, at this point he would want to lighten this up a little bit. So I want to recall for you, if I may, that I was twice blessed, because I served not only with GEORGE O'BRIEN here in the Congress of the United States, but I had him for a seat mate in the Illinois Legislature.

Henry Hyde and I had arrived there a little bit before GEORGE, and I was invited to a dinner one evening of freshman members of the legislature, and sat with GEORGE and Mary Lou that evening. I remember watching GEORGE walk into the room and thinking that it was Ben Cartwright, the fellow on the Bonanza TV program, they looked so much alike to me.

GEORGE told me, as Les said he had this remarkable memory, he told me that night when I told him that he looked like Ben Cartwright, he said, "Well, you look like somebody, too." For the next 16 years he would periodically say to me, "You do look like someone, but I haven't figured out yet who it is."

He was still saying that to me in the last days of his life. He was a tall, distinguished, soft-spoken gentleman. He was my seat mate, and he and I came to Washington together.

I remember when we were there in the legislature, I would say to my leader from Illinois, that it was not an easy time in Illinois; there was a lot of unrest on the campus; riots in Chicago; racial unrest in southern Illinois, and I remember GEORGE coming in one morning and telling me how he had paced the floor the night before in his apartment over in Lincoln Towers, trying to think of a constructive way that he could be involved in addressing that gap that he saw between black and white in Illinois; between teacher and student in Illinois; and I remember being moved by how deeply he was caught up in those things, and how much he wanted to contribute to their solution.

But at the same time, if there was a good humor man in the Illinois congressional delegation, it was the gentleman from Joliet, GEORGE O'BRIEN.

We have talked about his humor and how bad the humor could be, but even when it was bad it was funny because it was so bad.

In the 1982 campaign, I inherited some territory from GEORGE because of redistricting. I had began that year to run in part of his home county, and one night in the town of Peo-

tone I was scheduled to debate my opponent, and I did not know that GEORGE O'BRIEN was in 50 miles of the place.

Just as it was time to debate, he walked up, nudged me, whispered to me, "I'm going to handle this guy for you," took the podium and sang a song to this crowd of people assembled there. He had written a song about me to the tune of the Irish song, "Herrigan." As the Irish would say, the crowd was his and the rest of the night was his, and the debate never took place, and he really did handle that guy for me.

He was a wonderful guy, and Evelyn and I were watching television, the news about Father Jenco and I said, "My goodness, I wish GEORGE could know that." She said, "He knows it because he did it."

Well, I do not want to offend the gentleman from Illinois in the well (Mr. Michel), so I am going to continue to say publicly that he is the best singer in the Illinois delegation; but GEORGE was clearly the second best, and while we have lost a friend for a time, St. Peter has gained a good Irish baritone.

Mr. PEPPER. Mr. Speaker, like my colleagues, I am heavy hearted at the passing of GEORGE O'BRIEN. GEORGE O'BRIEN was truly a nobleman.

I think every man, woman on this floor loved him, respected him, admired him. He was a man of wide legislative interests which he pursued with great diligence. He was deeply dedicated to his work. He loved this House and he loved his colleagues in this Chamber. He loved America. And he served it with great dedication and devotion.

He was a man of warm human quality.

I played golf with him on a number of occasions, and always enjoyed it. He could hit that golf ball a long way. I used to tell people in the presence of GEORGE, "You know what they do down at Cape Kennedy when they get ready to launch those shuttles? They get GEORGE down there and let him hit the ball up into the sky, and then the shuttle follows GEORGE's golf balls up into the heavens.

So he would laugh. We had many happy occasions together. I thought a great deal of GEORGE. He was one of those men who somehow brightened the path of life which he trod. He made things better and brighter where he was. He made the day a little bit better when he greeted you with his warm exuberance, his warm smile, and sometimes his warm handshake.

So in the passing of GEORGE O'BRIEN we have lost a brother the like of which we shall not see again.

I want to extend the greatest condolences of my heart to his loved ones, and I want to pay to GEORGE O'BRIEN what Shakespeare has Antony pay to the fallen Brutus on the field of Philippi: "His life was gentle, and the elements so mix'd in him that nature might stand up and say to all the world 'this was a man!' "

Thank you.

Mr. SOLOMON. You know, I am not from Illinois, but GEORGE O'BRIEN sometimes made you wish you were. He was that kind of a man. I guess like Les AuCoin mentioned earlier, I think GEORGE O'BRIEN used to make a habit on opening day of a session of sitting down next to a freshman Member because I can recall my first day in this Chamber, I was sitting right back there and I did not know anybody, hardly. There was not anybody from New York in that freshman delegation. I felt kind of alone. Sure enough, in walks this great, big Irish man, and he sits down next to me and puts out his hand, and he says, "Hi, I'm GEORGE O'BRIEN from Illinois. Who are you?" I told him. From that day on we just became the greatest of friends.

He was a friend. And for 100 different reasons I wanted to stay here tonight and pay tribute to him and his wonderful wife, Mary Lou. But, you know, that day when we sat here the first time, GEORGE said he was proud to be from Illinois, he said he was proud to be of Irish ancestry, and he said he was proud to be a Member of this body.

He went on and told me why, as we sat there, for 35 or 40 minutes. And everything he told me came to be true because this is a body where camaraderie is so great, where we have great respect for each other. But something else happened a little later.

The minority leader appointed GEORGE O'BRIEN as a delegate to the North Atlantic Assembly, where he served for many years. He appointed me that year when I was new. And in traveling to Europe that particular year we have an opportunity to debate the issues before the North Atlantic Assembly. He and I were sitting there, and some of the people from some of the countries were standing up and berating America, as they do quite often, and back in those days I did not have all the patience and all the diplomacy that GEORGE O'BRIEN had, even though he was a hot-tempered Irish man. He kept his temper inward.

I recall him patting me on the knee saying, "Gerry, just wait, we will get our turn."

As the day went on, the debate went on, GEORGE O'BRIEN turned to me, he had tears in his eyes, and he said to me, he said, "Gerry, you know, I am so proud of our country, America, and I am so proud to be an American." And I looked at him and, you know, nobody ever meant that more than he did. He really meant it. And when he came in that door on that fateful night that we debated the particular bill and he sat there in that wheelchair, I think half the Members or maybe all of the Members of this House had tears in their eyes when they looked at GEORGE because he was such a dynamic man. And to see him like that, and when he got up out of that wheelchair in his condition and walked to that podium, I could just see him from those days before when he turned to me and he said, "Gerry, I am so proud to be an American."

He was so proud to take that podium where the minority leader is standing to say the words that he said, and to cast his vote for America.

God bless him. He was a wonderful man. We never will forget him.

Mr. STOKES. Mr. Speaker, I appear here this evening with all of my colleagues in this House to express memories about a very great man.

GEORGE O'BRIEN and I first met on a CO-DEL, when we were traveling with another of our late colleagues, the late Joe Addabbo of the Appropriations Committee.

That was the first time that I had met GEORGE and Mary Lou. We had an awful nice time together. We got to know one another and we just shared many, many fond occasions together.

On that trip my daughter was traveling with me, and during the course of the trip she became ill, and both GEORGE and Mary Lou at every turn were inquiring about Shelley, wanted to know whether she was better and expressed that type of concern throughout the entire trip.

Even after we came back, every time I would see either GEORGE or Mary Lou they would want to know, "How is Shelley?"

This friendship that we struck up on this trip continued. GEORGE and I were serving on the same subcommittee on appropriations, Labor, and Health and Human Services, and Education Subcommittee.

I recall one day GEORGE told me that he was giving an educational conference in his congressional district and wanted to know if I would be willing to come out to his district and par-

ticipate in that conference. I told him I would be delighted to do so.

We made arrangements for me to come out, and I arrived out there in the evening before the conference. GEORGE was having a little reception for all the participants. When I arrived, I was suffering with a tremendous cold. GEORGE became very concerned about my cold, left his reception, went out into his district, found some medicine, brought the medicine back to me. He was just that concerned, that he would leave all of his guests to go out and do that for me.

When you speak of his humor, the next day when I spoke, knowing of his humor, as I opened up my remarks on the occasion, I said to this audience—and it was predominantly a majority of white audience, but young people from all over his district—I said, "I'll bet all of you are wondering what a black liberal Democrat from Ohio is doing in the district of a white conservative Republican in Illinois." Well, the audience just cracked up.

Well, when I finished speaking, GEORGE came over and his favorite way of greeting me was "Lou, you rascal you." He said, "Lou, you rascal you, after you opened up that speech the way you had everybody in your hand, it was so great."

He just loved that speech.

Afterward, whenever I saw him, he would make some reference to that speech and the fact that I came into his district and spent that time with him.

But having served with him on that subcommittee, I know of his dedication to health and to education. GEORGE spent a great deal of time with the witnesses who appeared before that committee, as the gentleman from Illinois, the minority leader, knows, because he served on that committee much longer than either GEORGE or I.

But GEORGE used his skill as an old trial lawyer to bring out the kinds of things that he felt were important in those areas. He often made reference to the fact that he had been a trial lawyer at one time, and it was something he was very proud of. But you also could see it in the skill that he exhibited in terms of being able to elicit from the witnesses the kind of information that he wanted. Then I guess his last appearance in the House is something that I will always remember.

During the 18 years I served in this body, there have been a few times when something catches you here in your throat, and this was one of those occasions. When all of us saw this friend of ours come into this Chamber and we saw the Members in this Chamber spontaneously rise to pay respect to him

and then to see all of us line up over on that side of the Chamber to get a chance to shake his hand and to speak to him. I suppose I will never forget and will always remember those beautiful words he expressed when he spoke of what it meant to him to have served in this body.

You knew that he meant it, and you were proud that he had the opportunity to be able to make it to that podium and be able to make those last remarks in this body.

Then last, the other thing I will always remember about him is the tremendous love that he had for Mary Lou. I have heard others in this Chamber tonight speak of that love eloquently, and it is so true. I have known a lot of men who loved their wives; I have known a lot of wives who have loved their husbands. But I have never known of anyone who expressed it more than GEORGE O'BRIEN did. That was something, if you knew GEORGE O'BRIEN, you just knew he loved Mary Lou. He made it clear to anyone and everyone wherever he went that that was his heart and his love, and I think of all the things that I will remember about him, I will probably remember that the most.

Mr. MICHEL. Mr. Speaker, I would also like to include a tribute to GEORGE O'BRIEN from our former colleague, Robert McClory, who served with GEORGE for the years that the two of them were serving in this body:

Our colleague, Congressman GEORGE O'BRIEN, who passed on last Thursday, July 17, was a very decent man. In recalling GEORGE O'BRIEN's life, I am anxious to avoid any fulsome praise. At the same time there are so many descriptive adjectives that come to my mind that I cannot help but employ these words in describing one who approached that level of human perfection which we ascribe to the Biblical definition of man as "created in the image and likeness of God."

Congressman GEORGE O'BRIEN possessed those qualities of gentleness, civility, dignity, honor, respect and love which endeared him to friends and constituents—even political and personal rivals with whom he came in contact in the course of his long and honorable public and private life.

Congressman GEORGE O'BRIEN looked every part the political and public leader which he represented as a prominent and highly respected colleague in the U.S. House of Representatives. His leadership on domestic and international issues secured benefits to constituents and to Americans throughout the Nation in whose behalf he served as a Member of the U.S. House of Representatives.

On a very personal basis I recall the sympathetic and able support and cooperation which Congressman GEORGE O'BRIEN provided during his Congressional Service. My wife, Doris, and I became close personal friends with GEORGE and his beautiful and devoted wife, Mary Lou. The close relationship which we established and maintained throughout our years in the U.S. House of Representatives together—and thereafter—resulted in blessings which Doris

and I cherish as a part of the eternal life which his mortal passing cannot erase.

Joining as I do at this hour with many other former colleagues, I am proud and grateful to have enjoyed a close personal and public relationship with Congressman GEORGE O'BRIEN and to pause now in prayerful respect and devotion to his memory—and to communicate in behalf of my wife, Doris, and me our love, respect and compassion to his beloved wife, Mary Lou, and other members of the family.

Mr. RITTER. Mr. Speaker, I thank all of the people here for holding this special order on behalf of GEORGE O'BRIEN. I do not have a major speech but just a few impressions.

I worked with GEORGE O'BRIEN on the Steel Caucus for the last 7½ years. He was a significant contributor to the executive committee of that caucus in more ways than one. Many of you have spoken about the ways in which GEORGE O'BRIEN made his contributions. To this Member, who often sat next to Mr. O'BRIEN, I will say that, if you were in a not-so-great mood and if things were troubling you, the best person you could ever want to sit next to was GEORGE O'BRIEN.

He radiated an aura of self-contentment, happiness, well-being, and he had this remarkable ability to communicate it to other people.

He brought a lot of life and a lot of good will to those extended sessions of the executive committee of the Steel Caucus.

I was looking at the Webster's dictionary definition of a gentleman. It talked a lot about breeding and family and education. I thought to myself that it was somewhat incomplete, or the definition was emphasizing some features which were not as important as some other features like fineness of character and capability for good will and just the ability to be gentle and kind and caring.

If we ever wanted to rewrite the Webster's definition of a gentleman, I would think we should go to this special order tonight and synthesize some of the comments that were made about GEORGE O'BRIEN. I think, my colleagues, that that would provide us and posterity with a definition of the word "gentleman." It would be unsurpassed.

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I did not know GEORGE that well, but I did have an opportunity the first year I was here to take a trip to New York with my wife Rose Marie and his wife Mary Lou. We spent a wonderful weekend there in New York, with GEORGE and his wife showing us the ropes of the city, showing us the ropes of the trip that we were on. We took sev-

eral meals with them, and we went to several different activities with them.

A lot of great things have been said here tonight about GEORGE O'BRIEN, and certainly one of them was his great love for his wife that was certainly reciprocated through Mary Lou to him. But I believe the thing that stands out more than anything else is that GEORGE O'BRIEN was indeed a gentleman. I have heard other Members reiterate that tonight, but I wanted to come down here. I had submitted a statement for the Record, but I decided to come down here tonight, because certainly I had never met anyone in my entire life, anyone, who could be called a gentleman more than GEORGE O'BRIEN.

He has made my stay here in Washington, DC, more enjoyable, and I think he has made my life more worthwhile by simply of having had the opportunity to know him, even though it was on only a limited basis.

Mr. GREEN. Mr. Speaker, it was something that I count one of the brighter parts of my congressional career that I had an opportunity on a number of occasions to work very closely with GEORGE O'BRIEN.

One time was a time when he was just tremendously helpful to me. There was a mixup at the Economic Development Administration. As a result, it looked as if certain projects in New York City to which they had informally committed would get caught up in some rescissions. I came to GEORGE with the problem. He was ranking minority member of that appropriations subcommittee, and he really threw himself heart and soul into resolving it, and the crisis was averted as a result of GEORGE's efforts. I was always and eternally grateful to him for that.

The other occasions, I think, when I saw GEORGE in action really reflected GEORGE's concern for people who needed help.

When I first got here in 1978, GEORGE was quick to enlist me in his concern for the handicapped, and particularly his concern for accessibility to transportation for the handicapped. I remember the fight that year which he led and in which I worked by his side to try to ensure that federally funded mass transit would enable those who are handicapped nonetheless to get around and participate in the full life of our society. I think that was really a measure of GEORGE.

Of course, as so many have mentioned this evening, his efforts on behalf of Father Jenco in the final year of his life were another remarkable testimony to what GEORGE O'BRIEN stood for, because here, as GEORGE's own life was slipping away, and

he must have known it, nonetheless he threw himself wholeheartedly into this case to try to make sure that Father Jenco would ultimately be free. It is, of course, a great tragedy that GEORGE did not live to see the day of that freedom, but it is certainly true that GEORGE's effort in keeping that case in the forefront of people's minds played a very important role in the ultimate freedom for Father Jenco.

Mr. Speaker, I want to join all the Members who have spoken here tonight in expressing my condolences to Mary Lou and to the other members of GEORGE's family. The Nation has lost a great legislator and we have all lost a great friend.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. Speaker, I have listened to my other colleagues describe GEORGE O'BRIEN, and I am reminded that unfortunately in this Chamber that we served, often our impressions of our colleagues are based on snapshot incidents in our lives where our paths crossed with one another. Fortunately, I was blessed to meet GEORGE O'BRIEN soon after I came to Washington, and then to serve for a little over a year with him on the Appropriations Committee.

I think what has been said is so appropriate about GEORGE. He was in fact a gentleman. It is a term that is used so often and, yet, when you think about the origin, it must have been a person of grace, of special grace, a civilized and cultured grace, who could work so well with other people.

I noticed this about GEORGE, too. He took his job as Congressman very seriously, but he never took himself seriously. I think that also is a mark of someone who is very successful in this chamber.

GEORGE O'BRIEN could light up a room with his wit and good humor. I have seen him do it so many times. I can recall at the Appropriations Committee when he would have an important amendment before him and he might stumble in the process of describing it. He would turn it into a joke in a second, and everyone in the room would laugh, and then he would move on to the business of the day. I am going to miss that. It is needed so much in life, and certainly in this Chamber.

He was a man of great values, too. His marriage to Mary Lou meant so much. I guess we all can recall that final moment he stood on the floor here and he described how important service in this Chamber had been to his life. He was brought in in a wheelchair to cast his vote. He did make note

of a woman sitting in the gallery, Mary Lou, with him again at that hour, standing beside him during those important times.

When I first came here, I was a little concerned. GEORGE was a Republican and I am a Democrat. I wondered, how much can I trust these guys? Can I really open myself up to these people and not be frightened that it might come back to haunt me? I found so many times with so many people, particularly with GEORGE O'BRIEN, that it was a personal friendship, a real friendship, that transcended party and transcended the issue of the day, and it meant so much.

I recall, and I think the gentleman from Illinois can also recall, the funeral ceremony we both attended in Joliet for GEORGE. It was a beautiful ceremony, and it brought in the people of his district and his friends from every walk of life. That is the way it should be for GEORGE O'BRIEN.

I recall one hymn that was sung there, and the lyrics and the song have been in my mind ever since. It is a Catholic hymn entitled, "Here I Am, Lord." I was thinking to myself as GEORGE O'BRIEN presented himself to heaven, that we sit here in mourning and in reflection, but our loss is truly heaven's gain. GEORGE O'BRIEN was an exceptional man, and I am proud to have counted him as a friend.

Mr. PORTER. I thank the gentleman for his participation and I too, recall the service in Peoria. It was ecumenical. While it was a Catholic service, there was a Jewish rabbi and a Protestant minister that also participated. Members from both sides of the aisle; exactly the way GEORGE treated all of us.

Mr. CLINGER. Mr. Speaker, I guess it is no secret; GEORGE O'BRIEN was my friend. The fact is, he was a friend of so many people in this Chamber. He was a special friend to everyone who knew him. This is not a place where it is easy to make close friends. We are all busy and distracted and we are people absorbed in our own agendas. But GEORGE really worked at it, as I think we have heard this evening.

He really made a special effort to break down the barriers that we build up around here, to get to know you and know you well. Once he knew you, he really nurtured that friendship. That is one of the things that has always struck me about GEORGE. He did nurture his friendships. He really cared about you; he cared about your family; your triumphs, your frustrations, your failures. If you had a success, GEORGE was the first to share your joy and he remembered it. If you were depressed, he could always, always ease the depression with a story, a joke or some upbeat counsel.

My day was always brighter when I could share a little of it with GEORGE O'BRIEN. He always called to me, "How are you doing, Billy C?" Fortunately, those days were many, especially after GEORGE became a member of the House Wednesday Group a few years ago. GEORGE and Mary Lou were regular, devoted attenders at all Wednesday Group activities, whether it was one of our annual retreats where we would go away for a weekend to study a particular issue and have a good time in the process or whether at dinner discussions we had or at social events. He was always the center of every group.

He was always the life of the party in the best sense of the word. As everybody has alluded here tonight, the special love that GEORGE and Mary Lou had I think was an inspiration to us all.

GEORGE was a distinctive and memorable human being, even in great pain, as he obviously was for much of the last year of his life. His spirit soared. His joy of life was unquenched. It was difficult for those of us who were his friends to see GEORGE then because he was so obviously in pain. But it was, I would say, an inspiration, because here was a man in the grip of a dread disease yet still hard at work representing his constituents and carrying out his heavy duties as a senior member of the Appropriations Committee.

Who can forget the eloquence with which he pleaded in his illness for the release of Father Jenco; his trip to Syria. Pleas that were answered, unfortunately, only days after his passing.

Dylan Thomas, the great Irish poet, once wrote a poem which ended with these lines:

Go not softly into the dark night;
Rage, rage, rage against the dying of the light.

In his own, uniquely gentle way, GEORGE raged against the dying of the light, but he did it with consummate grace, with unflagging good humor, working until the end and warming us all with the fire of his indomitable personality.

Mr. REGULA. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the fact that the gentleman has taken this time. I have listened to the remarks tonight; it could all be summed up on one sentence, and that is that GEORGE O'BRIEN was a person that was loved by his fellow man.

As we walk through the road of life, there are few that take a special place in our hearts. We call them "friend" with a heartfelt warmth. GEORGE O'BRIEN was one of those people. His caring for others gave special meaning to the word "friend." I

know that Mary, my wife, and myself will always cherish the memory of our special Irishman.

GEORGE and I came to this body together. We have served together on the Appropriations Committee for many years, and I had the challenging privilege of serving under his leadership as our ranking member on the State-Justice-Commerce Committee. He always brought the leadership to that responsibility. To me, he was the epitome of a faithful servant of the people of this Nation and those that he represented.

I think his service was characterized by the words in the finest way, words of integrity, compassion, leadership, a keen intellect, a great sense of humor, humility, and love of his fellow man.

GEORGE was specially blessed with a wonderful partner in Mary Lou. Their love for each other was the crown jewel of his life. Likewise, in talking with GEORGE, you knew that he cared so much for his two daughters, Carol and Mary, and likewise his grandchildren, Brian, Brendon, and Anthony. When we would occasionally run into them in the dining room or around the Capitol, it was always with great pleasure and pride that he would introduce his family. To him his family was everything.

In the Bible in St. Mark, the Scribe said to Jesus: "Which is the first Commandment of all?", and He answered him by saying, "First of all, thou shall love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, with all thy soul and with all thy mind and with all thy strength." This is the First Commandment.

The Second is like, namely this: "Thou shall love thy neighbor as thyself." There are no other Commandments greater than these. I would say that GEORGE O'BRIEN lived those two Commandments every day of his life. You could not be around GEORGE very long without knowing that he loved his Lord, loved his church, and that he loved his neighbor just as himself.

What a wonderful legacy he has left for his community, for his family, for this body.

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I wish to tell the gentleman that I appreciate the gentleman taking this special order. GEORGE O'BRIEN was a very special individual and we all cared a great deal about him. Sometimes we become very cynical in this place. I have been here for almost 4 years and I have wondered many times if the patriotism that our forefathers showed when this country became free still exists.

There was one gentleman that comes to mind when I think of patriotism. His name was Caesar Rodney. Caesar Rodney was one of the members of the Continental Congress. He was a member of the three-member delegation from Delaware. When the battle for independence was joined in the Continental Congress, Caesar Rodney fell ill and he had to go home. He was deathly ill and they found out that he had cancer and he was terminally ill.

Caesar Rodney went back to Delaware not ever expecting to come back to Philadelphia to vote on the critical issue of independence. But he received word that the Delaware delegation was split, one-to-one, and that John Hancock had decided that it had to be a unanimous vote if we were to have independence; if we were going to have a Declaration of Independence.

So they sent for Caesar Rodney, and Caesar Rodney who was on his deathbed, literally, got on a horse and rode for 2 days through wind and hail and rain to get back to Philadelphia to cast that tie-breaking vote that ended up giving us our independence.

I thought that kind of patriotism died with people like Caesar Rodney until just before GEORGE O'BKIEN died, he walked through that door because he was asked to do a patriotic thing for his country by casting a vote on a very, very critical issue. It reintroduced my feeling that patriotism still lives in this country. I was very, very proud that the kind of a gentleman still served in this body.

I was very proud of that day and to be a participant when GEORGE O'BRIEN received a standing ovation from all of us because we knew what he was going through when he came back to cast that vote.

I would just like to say that my condolences go out to Mary Lou and the rest of his family and I want you all to know it was a pleasure for me to have known such a fine gentleman.

Mr. DORNAN of California. Mr. Speaker, there are many special Members, many men and women in this body that are memorable. Some just a little bit more than others because God has given them a quality of warmth that they just exude 24 hours a day.

GEORGE O'BRIEN was the only Member of this body that ever referred to me by the childhood derivative of my name, "Bobby."

He had that way of speaking to you like you felt you knew him all your life when you were a freshman and joined this body. You had this Irish, big-brother feeling about him.

I can remember 8 years ago, he had his 60th birthday party down in the Speaker's dining room, just across from the restaurant. That was the first time I observed his love for Mary Lou and his children and what a wonderful family he had.

I thought at the time, what a job it must be to reach your 60th birthday, that birthday that is so special that in Asia they say it is when your life begins again. To see him reach his 60th birthday with his family around him, serving his country in this great Congress and to see all that love, I thought to myself what a joy to be here for the big 60.

I had a very special feeling for GEORGE after that because I had seen the love of his family for him and him for his family. I thought he pretty much had it all.

He just fell shy of that biblical three score and 10 which, at least in the United States, given our wonderful medicine, now does not seem all that old. It is really young to pass away at 68, particularly when you are young at heart like GEORGE and so big and robust, at least until we saw him that last night, just 17 days before God called him.

I think that, although we are tempted to say GEORGE had such a good, full life, when you see a man enjoying his family, his wife, his kids, and his grandchildren the way he did, you did feel that tremendous sense of loss.

When he spoke that night, I had no idea we would be in his beloved Joliet Cathedral where he sang in the choir for 12 years within such a few weeks.

That night, after he made that moving speech, and there were so many tears flowing down so many cheeks in this House, he went back and sat down in his wheelchair in that corner and then a whole procession of Members from both sides of the aisle went by to pay what they knew would be their last respects to GEORGE O'BRIEN.

With each person that passed, because GEORGE did look ill, and only when that beautiful voice of his came out of him, did some of the Members look up from the back of the Chamber and realize it was GEORGE O'BRIEN speaking to them. So when I went over, I knew he was in pain and I did not know how much he would want to say to each Member. I could not believe, as I stood there in line, how vital he was, that he had something special to say to each person.

I am sure, John, that he said something special to you. I just know that without having been there when you went by.

The gentlewoman from California, Bobbi Fiedler, came up to him. "Oh, Bobbi, I am so sorry you did not win your pri-

mary in California. I thought you were doing such a terrific job."

Then when I came up to him, he said, "Bobby, you are going to Syria tonight." I said, "No, tomorrow night, GEORGE." "Well, I wanted to be with you so much."

Sure, it was his trip. I was going with him, not him with me. It was his inspiration. He gave me the little 7 that I wore in my lapel until Ben Weir was returned and made it 6, and then I felt bad about wearing it because the word came out that maybe Bill Buckley was dead. Then Peter Kilburn's body was thrown in an alley in Beirut and it was down to 4 possibly.

I just felt bad wearing a 7, but I wore that with GEORGE because he took it off his lapel and gave it to me and said, "I will get another one from the jeweler who made it up."

He said to me, "Bobby, you tell Hafez Assad and Foreign Minister Shara," just had the names right like that, the gentleman from North Carolina, Mr. Broyhill, was standing right there; he will tell you this.

He had just congratulated Jim for going to the other body. He said, "You tell them that I am believing in their sincerity. I know they want to do something for our hostages and give them my best regards and tell them to keep trying."

A few days later, I passed on those very remarks of GEORGE to President Assad of Syria. I told President Assad that if GEORGE lived more than a few months, it would be a miracle. I had no idea it would be 13 days before God would call him.

President Assad seemed very moved, and I said, "President Assad, GEORGE O'BRIEN is counting on you." He said, "All right, you tell Mr. O'BRIEN we are going to redouble our efforts."

When I found myself at Joliet in GEORGE's beloved church listening to Senator Dixon speak more eloquently than his colleagues said they had ever heard him in his career talking about how GEORGE could not turn down his leader to come to the House, so ill that June night, saying how GEORGE could never have turned down his country, his President, and his leader.

It was the most natural thing in the world for him to show up here so ill. When I came out of the church at Joliet, there was Mary Lou, the first one at the door, as you recall. I gave her a hug and said, "Mary Lou, Father Jenco will probably be home within the week because while some of us work the problem down here, GEORGE has direct access and he is now working that problem in Heaven."

If I was being romantic or something, GEORGE got the job done in 96 hours, maybe a few hours less than that.

Then I came out of the church and turned to the Jenco family. There they were, Joe, the sisters, and everybody. They called me over because I have here the effects. I am going to take it out and show it to Father Jenco tomorrow, the letter that is written by Father Jenco in his terrorist dungeon in Beirut, all in his handwriting and signed by the four of them, the three that remain alive, Peter Kilburn was held by some other group before they murdered him, and it was addressed to "Dear Congressmen GEORGE O'BRIEN and Bob Dornan."

I turned to the Jencos and I said, "You know what I just told Mary Lou, that with GEORGE working this problem in Heaven, your brother is going to be back in a week."

Joe Jenco reminded me of that a few days ago.

They have asked me to fly back to Joliet with them Saturday and ride in that parade. I know that I will be sitting in GEORGE O'BRIEN's seat in that parade for Father Jenco.

So I promise GEORGE tonight that I will not forget that he was working for the seven. Three are left and he is working the problem in Heaven while we work it down here. We will probably have the other three out in a few weeks.

We are going to miss GEORGE O'BRIEN around here, not just you folks on appropriations, but all of us. In those eulogies for him the other day in the 1-minutes, one person forgot just one little thing in their show of affection for GEORGE. They said they were sorry that he was not here to witness the return of Father Jenco.

Father Jenco returned because GEORGE was there and not here. We sometimes forget that.

Until we all see him again, vaya con Dios, GEORGE. We will not forget you; do not forget us.

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I certainly thank the gentleman from California (Mr. Dornan) for not only the recollections of GEORGE's life as a Member of Congress, but also for letting all of us know what transpired and what brought about the release of Father Jenco and what an important role GEORGE played in that.

We are delighted that you are going to be representing us in that parade back home.

Mr. Speaker, I think the number of Members who have come to the Chamber late this evening, so many Members from both sides of the aisle, is indicative of the feeling that all of us have for GEORGE O'BRIEN.

We all loved GEORGE O'BRIEN and we will all miss him terribly. Kathryn and I share with Mary Lou her sense of loss. Indeed, every Member of the House and their families share that sense of loss in a very real and human way.

He was perhaps the most warm and caring and loving human being I personally have ever known.

You would not shake hands with GEORGE O'BRIEN without, somebody said, he would give you a hug. He would pat you on the back. He loved people and they loved him.

He was a great teller of stories, as many have said on the House floor tonight. Whether you would go downstairs and sit in the Members' dining room and sit at the table with him for lunch or whether you were out to dinner with him or other Members in a delegation meeting or whether he was with folks from back home, he would always regale everyone with wonderful, wonderful stories.

I can remember a trip that a number of us took to Illinois aboard Air Force One about 2 years ago with President Reagan. We went out to Chicago. Henry Hyde and Lynn Martin and GEORGE and I were privileged to accompany the President on that trip. President Reagan came back about 20 minutes ago into the flight and began telling stories about his days as an announcer for the Chicago Cubs out in Des Moines on the ticker. When he began to get into those stories, Henry Hyde and GEORGE O'BRIEN and Lynn all began trading with the President great Irish stories. They had so much fun that the President did the same thing on the way back and spent another 45 minutes or so on the flight trading stories with GEORGE and Henry and Lynn. It was just a wonderful fun time.

GEORGE had just come back from a trip to Ireland at the time, and anybody that knew GEORGE knew how much he loved Ireland and if there was one thing that he would have loved to have achieved, but did not during his lifetime, that would have been to be our Ambassador to Ireland.

He told the story that Henry Hyde told earlier in the evening, and I want to repeat it. It is a true story. He had gone to a cemetery there and had looked, as I did when I was in Ireland, at some of the gravestones. One he found said "Here lies the body of Brigadier General"—I think the name was Brian Muldoon. It said, "Killed accidentally by his manservant," and it listed the date of his death. That was at the top and then down in the middle were a number of flowers and cupids, and then at the bottom of the gravestone it said, "Well done, good and faithful servant."

He saw the humor in things. He saw the fun things in life. He was positive and optimistic and he saw the good in his fellow man.

I never heard him say an ill word about anybody during the entire time that I knew him.

He was also, as has been recounted so many times this evening, a man of commitment. Everyday he spoke on the House floor about Father Jenco. For month after month he got up and brought the case for the release of Father Jenco before the American people. He went to Syria, as has been recounted earlier in the evening.

When he died and Father Jenco had not yet been released, we sat down in our Illinois delegation meeting and said to ourselves that we, the Illinois delegation, are going to undertake on a bipartisan basis to carry on GEORGE's efforts in behalf of Father Jenco, and do you know that before we had done anything and as our colleague from California mentioned just a few moments ago, immediately thereafter Father Jenco was released and obviously it was a tribute to the commitment of GEORGE O'BRIEN and to his efforts in behalf of Father Jenco that his release was brought about.

It has also been said many times, and it is all so wonderfully true, that GEORGE was blessed with a beautiful and loving wife, Mary Lou, a wonderful family, and there was never a greater family man than GEORGE, his two daughters and three grandsons and Mary Lou. It was a wonderful family that was never closer I think than any I have ever known.

They knew that GEORGE loved life dearly. He lived it fully.

I discovered after his death and just a few days ago that he had suffered from cancer for a far longer time than any of us knew. It tells us a great deal about GEORGE's character, the stuff he was made of, that none of us did know that. He carried on his obligations even while he was suffering from this dread disease. His work on behalf of others was carried out with the same conviction and courage and commitment that he had always shown. It was all at the same time that he was suffering.

So we have lost not only a colleague, a man who loved his country, his family, who loved his service to his country, the opportunity to serve in this wonderful body, we have lost a very, very dear friend.

I am sure that on entering Heaven, God would certainly have said to GEORGE, "Well done, good and faithful servant," and GEORGE probably would have said back to the Lord, "You know, that reminds me of a wonderful story."

Mr. MOAKLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to add my voice as we say goodbye tonight to GEORGE O'BRIEN. Mr. Speaker, GEORGE and I were elected and came to Congress together in 1972. George has always been someone I enjoyed serving with. He was a hard working member of the Committee on Appropriations. His role as a moderate Member, who avoided extremes on all issues, enabled him to make a particularly useful contribution on that committee, were he brought bipartisan balance to difficult issues like the Federal Trade Commission and the Legal Services Corporation.

Outside the appropriations process, his most active commitment was on the issue of trade. He was an effective spokesman for the revitalization of American manufacturing capacity, and protecting U.S. workers from unfair foreign practices.

But all of us who consider ourselves GEORGE's friends will remember him more as a man than as a legislator. He was one of the kindest and most decent men who have ever stood in our midst. He had a gentle manner, and a warm smile. He was a sincere and loyal friend to us all, and we will miss him greatly.

Mr. Speaker, I join my colleagues in expressing deepest sympathy to GEORGE's family.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to add a few words to what has been said about our dearly departed colleague, the late GEORGE O'BRIEN. I also extend my condolences to his family and friends.

I had the pleasure of serving with GEORGE on the Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education of the Appropriations Committee. We have a congenial and cooperative environment on the subcommittee due in large part to the demeanor of our esteemed Chairman Bill Natcher.

It's also due, however, to members like GEORGE. That subcommittee is only as good as the sum of its parts.

GEORGE O'BRIEN was an intergal part of the subcommittee. I had the pleasure of serving with GEORGE for 3 years. In those 3 years I came to know GEORGE as a very caring man. I never heard him say a bad thing about anyone. Though his questions of witnesses you could always tell that his primary concern was for people. As the chairman is fond of saying, the Labor, HHS, Education bill is the people's bill. It was clear that GEORGE believed that it is.

GEORGE has left us now but his caring spirit has not. It's up to us, his friends and colleagues to keep that spirit alive.

I'd like to end with a quote by Angelo Parti:

In one sense there is no death. The life of a soul on earth lasts beyond his departure. You will always feel that life touching yours, that voice speaking to you, that spirit looking out of other eyes, talking to you in the familiar things he touched, worked with, lived as familar friends. He lives on in your life and in the lives of all others that knew him.

Mr. YATES. Mr. Speaker, GEORGE O'BRIEN was one of the true gentlemen of this House and a very good friend of mine. I liked GEORGE from the day I met him and I am deeply saddened by his loss.

There was a spirit of decency, compassion, and thoroughgoing civility about GEORGE that won him a host of friends and made him a particularly effective member of the House. I served with GEORGE on the Appropriations Committee for many years and I was always impressed with what he was able to accomplish with his unique blend of friendly persuasion and well-reasoned argument. GEORGE had a keen intelligence and he worked very hard for his district and the people of this country. I will remember him for his many kindnesses and for the quality of statesmanship and legislative talent that he brought to the House.

I would like also to say that there is a provision in the Interior appropriations bill, which the House passed earlier today, that names the new visitor center for the Illinois and Michigan Canal National Heritage Corridor for GEORGE. He was, of course, instrumental in the creation of this very significant project and I was pleased that we were able to honor him in this way.

All of us will miss GEORGE O'BRIEN and I extend my most sincere sympathy to his wife Mary Lou and all his family.

Mr. ANNUNZIO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to join with the distinguished minority leader, Congressman Bob Michel, and my colleagues in the House of Representatives, in paying tribute to Congressman GEORGE M. O'BRIEN, whose untimely death on July 17, was a tremendous loss to the people of this Nation.

GEORGE became my good friend during the period we served in Congress together, and I am proud to have had the honor to work with him in the House of Representatives.

Serving our country with distinction during World War II, GEORGE O'BRIEN obtained the rank of lieutenant colonel. He received his law degree from Yale Law School, and practiced law in Joliet, IL. Before coming to the House of Representatives, he ably served as assistant supervisor of Joliet township from 1956 to 1964, and was a State Representative for the 41st District of Illinois from 1971 to 1972.

Elected to the 93d Congress in 1972, GEORGE O'BRIEN compiled an outstanding record of achievement as the ranking minority member of the Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, State, and Judiciary of the House Appropriations Committee. Most recently, he worked tirelessly for the release of Father Lawrence Martin Jenco, of Joliet, visiting Syria and speaking to the Syrian President on behalf of the Americans being held hostage in Lebanon. Sadly GEORGE did not live to see Father Jenco released. However, his courage, compassion, and hard work toward achieving this objective will be long remembered.

GEORGE O'BRIEN was a fine legislator, and his dedication to the highest standards was an inspiration to his friends and his fellow citizens. He will be sorely missed by all those he served, and all who had the privilege to know him as a friend.

Mrs. Annunzio and I extend our deepest sympathy to his wife Mary Lou, his two daughters, and the other members of his family who survive him.

Mr. BROOMFIELD. Mr. Speaker, GEORGE O'BRIEN was special in many ways and he will be missed by all of us. He was a big man who gave of himself to his country, his constituents, and his family. America has lost a great public servant, the people of his district have lost a dedicated representative, and GEORGE's family has lost a loving husband and father. We in the Chamber have lost a dear and wise colleague.

GEORGE loved his work and did it well. He labored diligently on the House Armed Services Committee. He also served ably as ranking Republican on the Commerce, Justice, State, and Judiciary Subcommittee of the Appropriations Committee.

Being a man of great compassion, he organized and then served as chairman of the House Republican task force on the handicapped.

He was particularly active in the North Atlantic Assembly and was a member of the House delegation to the Assembly where he served with distinction.

I clearly remember GEORGE's last appearance in Congress. On June 25, he left his sickbed and entered the House Chamber in a wheelchair. He was determined to cast his vote in support of President Reagan's request for aid to the Contra rebels in Nicaragua. His final vote in this Chamber was done with the determination and commitment that characterized GEORGE's service here in the House.

GEORGE was a statesman, not a politician. He tried to look at issues apart from partisan politics. He constantly looked at what was good for the country and voted that way regardless

of the party line. He clearly knew where partisanship gave way to cooperation.

GEORGE never forgot who sent him to Washington and whose votes kept him in the House. He deeply believed in taking care of the people in his district and ensured that every last letter was answered. Concern for his Fourth District constituents was paramount and never-ending. He was justifiably proud of his interest in and service to the common people back home.

He worked long and hard to improve the economy in his district. He played a major role in creating the Illinois and Michigan Canal National Heritage corridor, obtained funds for the Joliet Job Corps Center, and revitalized the Joliet Army ammunition plant.

While he often took a back seat on national and international issues, GEORGE won deserved praise when he traveled to Damascus, Syria, and met with President Hafez Al-Assad about the release of his constituent, Father Lawrence Jenco of Joliet, IL. The Syrian President pledged to work for the release of the captives.

During the time that Father Jenco was in captivity, GEORGE maintained close contact with the Jenco family and kept them current on the hostage situation.

The other day, when Father Jenco was given his freedom, I thought of GEORGE and how his great efforts had contributed to the release of that humble priest. Given GEORGE's big heart and compassionate ways, I am sure he is looking down on Father Jenco today with a sense of real accomplishment.

GEORGE will be missed most of all by his loving family. He and his wife, Mary Lou, enjoyed a long and warm marriage that has been described by their friends as a model husband and wife team. GEORGE was a dedicated husband and father who gave much of himself and received much love in return from his wonderfully family.

As a friend and colleague, GEORGE will be missed by all of us in this Chamber. I remember him well throughout the many years we served together in this body. He was a good human being. I remember most of all his kindness and humanity. He had a great intellect and a wonderful sense of humor. He was admired and trusted by his colleagues in the House and he displayed great personal loyalty to all of his devoted friends. His infectious smile and selfish ways revealed his Irish background. He was an amiable man who was highly respected by colleagues on both sides of the aisle. All of us will sorely miss GEORGE, and America will have lost a superb public servant.

My heart goes out to his family and friends. I know that I can speak for all of us in this Chamber when I say that an eagle has fallen. All of us are better men for having known and worked with GEORGE O'BRIEN.

Mr. LOEFFLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of our departed colleague, Representative GEORGE O'BRIEN.

I have had the privilege of working with GEORGE O'BRIEN in two capacities. As legislative liaison for President Ford, I spent many hours here working with Members of Congress, including the gentleman from Illinois.

In that capacity, one learns very soon whose word can be relied upon in this process of negotiation and accommodation. One thing I will always remember about the gentleman from Illinois is that his word was his bond.

Another quality which impressed me about GEORGE O'BRIEN was his genuine warmth. From the day he met me, he always knew me as Tommy, and that meant a great deal to me, especially during my first years on the Hill with the White House. Later, when I became a Member of Congress, GEORGE O'BRIEN's honesty and sincerity remained as genuine as when I first had the privilege of meeting and working with him. His reputation for hard work in the service of his constituents is also well-known.

Mr. Speaker, GEORGE O'BRIEN was a beloved friend and colleague of us all, and he will be sorely missed here in this Chamber. I would like to express my sincere sympathies to his family and my deep regret at the passing of our compatriot.

Mrs. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, all of us who knew GEORGE O'BRIEN feel a keen sense of loss, but I have some special memories because we came to Congress together in the class elected in 1972. We learned the ways of this institution together and found occasion to consult each other on a variety of matters over the years.

GEORGE was a very good person with a generous nature. His warmth enabled him to make friends easily, and we remember him with fondness. We were fortunate to have known him. Duncan and I will pray for Mary Lou and his family.

Mr. MURTHA. Mr. Speaker, I truly considered it a privilege and a pleasure to serve in Congress with GEORGE O'BRIEN.

In particular, I will always remember the thoughtful concern and the diligent attention GEORGE brought to problems both

national in scope and within the area he represented so ably for years.

I worked particularly closely with GEORGE on the House steel caucus. He served as our treasurer. He served as an active executive committee member. He served as a key part of our debates, our stability, and our success. The steel caucus works very hard to operate on a bipartisan basis so the needs of the steelworkers, steel communities, and steel companies are always our primary focus—GEORGE was constantly willing to join in taking that long-range view, in stressing progress and cooperation over partisanship and dissent.

I was also pleased to join with the members of the House Interior Appropriations Subcommittee in designating the visitor center for the Illinois and Michigan National Heritage Corridor to be located at the Fitzpatrick House in Lockport, IL, the "GEORGE M. O'BRIEN Visitor Center".

As our report notes:

> This action recognizes the leadership and contributions of Representative GEORGE M. O'BRIEN with respect to the creation and establishment of the Illinois and Michigan National Heritage Corridor.

I close with a couple personal reflections: I will remember his Irish wit; I will miss his good humor and smile; I will continue to respect his deep religious commitment; and I will suffer from no longer having his counsel and experience.

Mr. LENT. Mr. Speaker, Representative O'BRIEN had a long and distinguished career in the House of Representatives. For over 14 years, he served his Illinois constituents and his country admirably and to the best of his ability. He was an outstanding public servant who believed that his most important responsibility was to the people he represented in Congress.

GEORGE was admired and respected by his fellow colleagues, both Republican and Democrat. As a senior member of the House Appropriations Committee, he'd earned a reputation as a hard-working, effective legislator.

Sadly, the Nation has lost one of its finest statesmen, and he will be missed. I'd like to extend my deepest sympathies to Congressman O'BRIEN's family and loved ones in their time of sorrow.

Mr. ROYBAL. Mr. Speaker, in properly paying tribute to our colleague, GEORGE O'BRIEN, we must recognize the type of man that he was.

GEORGE O'BRIEN was an affable man with an unending concern for the constituents that he represented for nearly 14 years. His efforts were directed at improving his district which

had been severely hurt by recession and helping those less fortunate. He prided himself on answering each piece of mail that came across his desk, and was truly a man of the people. Negotiating for the release of Reverend Jenco and other hostages in Lebanon, as well as being instrumental in the declaring of Joliet as a separate statistical area, are merely two examples of his dedication to the Fourth District of Illinois.

Achieving the rank of lieutenant colonel in the 8th and 12th Air Force during World War II, GEORGE O'BRIEN served his country well. He continued this service upon entering into public office. After being elected to the Will County Board of Supervisors and the Illinois General Assembly, he came to the 93d Congress in 1972. As a respected member of several committees, as well as chairman of the House Republican task force on the handicapped, he always fought for what he believed to be right. Coming from his sickbed to vote on the controversial Contra aid bill, GEORGE once again took a stand for that in which he believed. Even those who did not agree with GEORGE's views were compelled to admire his perseverance and spirit.

As a member of the Appropriations Committee, I had the opportunity of working closely with GEORGE, particularly on health-related issues. He shared my commitment to improving the quality of health care in the United States, and I know he commanded the respect of experts in this area. The congenial personality that GEORGE O'BRIEN possessed brought respect from both political parties. He was loved as a colleague, and most importantly as a friend. He will be sorely missed.

Mr. CHAPPELL. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate this opportunity to join with my colleagues today in honoring the memory of GEORGE O'BRIEN, whose valiant but unsuccessful struggle with cancer ended 2 weeks ago.

Having served with GEORGE on the Appropriations Committee, I can say that the citizens of the Fourth Congressional District in Illinois have lost a most effective legislator, one who could balance the particular needs of his constituents with those of the rest of the Nation. As the ranking minority member of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Commerce, State, Justice, and the Judiciary, he annually worked with the chairman to craft a carefully constructed bill which would adequately fund worthwhile programs without wasting precious taxpayer dollars.

GEORGE's career in public service was capped posthumously by the release last week of Father Lawrence Jenco, a priest

who had been held hostage in Lebanon for 18 months. Countless times over the last year and a half, GEORGE took to the well to ensure that the Congress, the President, and the American people did not forget about his constituent, Father Jenco, who was being held prisoner in a land far away. While the entire Nation was rejoicing in the release of Father Jenco, our joy in this body was tinged with sadness—sadness that our colleague had passed away barely 1 week before, without witnessing the fruits of his labors over these many months.

When GEORGE came to the floor of the House late last month to cast his vote on the question of providing aid to the Contras in Nicaragua, it took a tremendous amount of courage to do so. Weakened though he was by illness, he felt that his country needed him to be there when a close vote was expected on a crucial foreign policy question, and he was there, despite his personal suffering.

We shall all miss GEORGE O'BRIEN. His passing has left a major void in this body. My deepest sympathies go out to his wife, Mary Lou, and to his two daughters, Caryl and Mary.

Mr. MONTGOMERY. Mr. Speaker, I am very honored to join with my colleagues in this special order to remember our friend, GEORGE O'BRIEN. He was one of the most popular and capable Members of this Chamber. In the years I have served here, I can't recall the first negative remark made about our late colleague from the State of Illinois.

GEORGE handled appropriations on the floor of this House in a very reasonable and thoughtful manner, yet he was always firm in his convictions. We need more people like GEORGE O'BRIEN in Congress. He was a great American and a very effective legislator. He will be missed, but certainly not forgotten.

Mr. HORTON. Mr. Speaker, on July 17 I lost a personal friend and colleague, and the House of Representatives lost a valuable Member. GEORGE M. O'BRIEN, who for 14 years dedicated his services to the people of the Fourth District of Illinois, passed away after a battle with cancer. It is truly sad to see a person with his strength, his dedication, so weakened—and finally taken from us—by cancer. It is my hope that this personal brush with cancer will spur us all on to find ways to win the difficult battle with this deadly disease.

While few outside of the beltway or his district knew of GEORGE, those of us on Capitol Hill were acutely aware of the major roles he played during his tenure on the Appropriations Committee. He was highly respected by Republicans and

Democrats alike, and his conscientious efforts toward dealing with the smaller details gave him respect among his colleagues that was unequaled.

In addition to this Chamber, I had the honor of serving with GEORGE on the North Atlantic Assembly, representing the United States in meetings with parliamentarians from our NATO allies. I was always impressed by his dedication and willingness to sacrifice of himself for others.

During our trips to Europe, he flew to Rome and elsewhere in his efforts to secure the release of the Reverend Lawrence Martin Jenco, who grew up in GEORGE's district. It is sadly ironic that Reverend Jenco was released just days after GEORGE's untimely passing.

My wife Nancy and I have known GEORGE and his lovely wife Mary Lou on a personal basis for a very long time. We want to extend our sympathies to Mary Lou and the O'Brien family.

Congress lost a giant on July 17, and I lost a very dear friend. He will be sorely missed.

Mr. LEVIN of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I join my colleagues in their tributes to Representative GEORGE O'BRIEN and would like to extend my sympathies to his wife and family.

I will remember Mr. O'BRIEN as fair and just, a man whose convictions often transcended the lines drawn by these aisles. He consistently acted upon those values that he deemed good and right. And he occasionally pricked our conscience. That virtue will be missed.

His leadership was indeed clearly witnessed as he came before us tirelessly, urging each of us to be vigilant in our efforts on behalf of the hostages in Lebanon. His vision of their safe return was focussed on, but not restricted to the release of his friend and constituent, Father Martin Jenco. And he pursued all possible courses of resolution in that effort.

Tomorrow, Father Jenco will return to the United States. We deeply regret that GEORGE will not be here to share in that happy moment.

I also remember the last words that Representative O'BRIEN left with us. He spoke of this body and the very special sense of family and friendship that he felt here. It was a personal and moving statement. He is missed by his many friends in the House.

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, GEORGE O'BRIEN was a friend of mine. As one passes through life there are those who stand out because of genuine warmth and friendship. Congressman O'BRIEN was such a person. Our belonging to the same col-

lege fraternity, Sigma Chi, made our friendship all the more meaningful. He was a credit to this country and an inspiration to all who knew him. I was proud to call him my friend.

Mr. FUQUA. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate this opportunity to express my sympathy to the family and friends of my good friend and colleague GEORGE O'BRIEN.

The Fourth District has truly lost a dedicated public servant and a fine human being. GEORGE's distinguished service as the ranking minority member on the Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, State, and Judiciary of the Committee on Appropriations gained him much respect among his colleagues.

My good friend, GEORGE was always willing to lend advice and listen patiently to others' views. His wisdom and presence will be dearly missed by all his colleagues and his constituents.

Mr. DREIER of California. Mr. Speaker, last week our colleague and our friend, GEORGE O'BRIEN, passed away. GEORGE's absence will be felt by all, of course by his family and friends, but also by the State of Illinois, Congress, and the Nation.

GEORGE O'BRIEN was a sincere and dedicated individual with a purpose and drive unsurpassed by many as evidenced most recently when he came to the House floor from his hospital bed in order to cast his vote in favor of aid to the freedom fighters. A living example of GEORGE's dedication to his fellow man is Father Lawrence Jenco, a native of the Fourth District of Illinois who was just freed from captivity in Lebanon, in part due to GEORGE's valiant efforts.

A fine example for us all, GEORGE's legacy will live on as a reminder to us to strive for what we believe in as he did all of his life.

Mr. VANDER JAGT. Mr. Speaker, it is indeed a sad task we are performing in saying goodbye to our dear friend and colleague, Congressman GEORGE O'BRIEN, who left us on July 18. A dedicated representative of the people of suburban Chicago, he won the respect and admiration of his colleagues on both sides of the aisle for his effective work on the House Committee on Appropriations.

GEORGE O'BRIEN always knew what it took to be a good representative—fairness, compassion, integrity, intelligence, and a deep-seated love of country. He possessed each of these qualities and they served him and more importantly, the American people, well. GEORGE O'BRIEN was truly a people's representative. He came from the people, and he continued to earn the

love and respect of the people who elected him and had the privilege to work with him. Friend, colleague, respected legislator, GEORGE O'BRIEN lived a distinguished life of service to our great Nation. He will be sorely missed.

Mr. RUDD. Mr. Speaker, I wish to express my deepest sympathy to the family of Congressman GEORGE O'BRIEN, who proudly represented the fourth district of Illinois for 14 years.

From his service in the Air Force during World War II, to his unselfish work in the House, Congressman O'BRIEN always worked to preserve liberty and freedom for our Nation. GEORGE was a true patriot who served his constituency well. He was a powerful force accomplishing what needed to be done.

However, GEORGE was much more to me than a deeply admired colleague. GEORGE was of great assistance to me as a new Congressman when I was first elected. He was a true Christian man who was greatly admired by his fellow colleagues in Congress.

I offer my sincerest condolences to Mary Lou and GEORGE's two daughters, Caryl and Mary. My prayers and best wishes are with them in this difficult time, and I only hope that they can find some comfort in the knowledge that GEORGE will always be remembered by his friends, colleagues, and many admirers as a shining example to all Americans.

Mr. MCKINNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the late GEORGE M. O'BRIEN of Illinois, who died on July 17. GEORGE was a good friend and trusted colleague. He will be deeply missed by this House, where in his career, he served honorably and with dignity.

Born in Chicago in June 1917, GEORGE was a 8-year veteran of the Will County Board of Supervisors. In between his service to the community at the local level and his service to his county, State and Nation here in Congress, GEORGE practiced law in Joliet.

Throughout his career in the House, which spanned some 14 years, GEORGE was not a flamboyant politician. Instead, he was a skilled behind-the-scenes legislator and diligent representative of his district. As the ranking Republican member of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, State, and Judiciary, GEORGE was a strong supporter of funding for the handicapped. During his service on the Subcommittee on Labor-Health and Human Services-Education, his efforts in the 98th Congress led to higher visibility for the nursing profession and a $5 million appropriation for a nursing re-

search facility, GEORGE also fought for the maintenance of the Legal Services Corporation and Juvenile Justice Programs.

Mr. Speaker, it was through the House Wednesday Group that I really got to know GEORGE. I found it a pleasure to work with him in that capacity. As an Irishman, I will certainly miss his Irish humor. It will leave me destitute.

GEORGE M. O'BRIEN served this House and his Illinois constituents admirably during his 14 years in Congress. He will be deeply missed.

Mr. RUSSO. Mr. Speaker, we have lost a dedicated Congressman with the passing of Congressman GEORGE O'BRIEN. He was a man of great personal integrity and I am proud that he was my friend as well as my colleague. I will miss him.

GEORGE was someone you knew would be there when you needed him. Ask for help and he, without a moment's hesitation, would take the time to hear you out and help in any way he could. I especially appreciated this willingness on his part to work with even a "younger" member like myself, and even though we were in different political parties. It says a lot about the man and his values. He was here to be a Congressman. And indeed he was a Representative in every sense of the word. He was hard-working, he remembered the constituents back home, he was committed to doing what was best for our Nation.

GEORGE will not be forgotten. He's left his mark on the Congress and on this country. I'm going to always remember that easy going manner, his honesty, his personal courage, and the enjoyable talks we had as well as the work we did together on projects for the third and fourth districts in Illinois. I'm going to remember the honor it was to know him and work with him.

Today I join with my colleagues in paying tribute to him and in expressing my condolences to his family. He was a fine man and we share in their loss.

Mr. RINALDO. Mr. Speaker, it is with deep sorrow that I join in extending my sympathy to Mary Lou O'Brien on the death of her husband, our colleague GEORGE O'BRIEN. GEORGE and I were both elected to Congress in 1972, and during the nearly 14 years we spent together in Washington we became good friends. He was a very capable, dedicated and courageous legislator who has left his mark on Capitol Hill. One memory I will always have of GEORGE is the grit he showed in getting out of a sickbed late last month to come to the House floor in a wheelchair for the critical vote on the

Contra aid issue. So impressed were we with that exhibition of devotion to duty that we gave him a 5-minute ovation. He deserved it.

During his seven terms, GEORGE brought to the deliberations of the House a strong sense of personal conviction, integrity, and legislative ability. In establishing an impressive record of public service, he contributed creatively and constructively to legislation advancing the welfare of the Nation. His dedication and his love of his district, State, and country had a positive influence on all of us who knew and worked with him. He was a good friend, a conscientious legislator, and we are going to miss him.

Mr. YATRON. Mr. Speaker, today we are setting aside time and the press of business to pay tribute and last respects to our departed colleague, the Honorable GEORGE O'BRIEN. GEORGE was a strong, thoughtful legislator who compiled a remarkable record of achievement in Congress.

GEORGE's legal education and broad background in the law stood him well in his position as ranking minority member of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, State, and Judiciary. These four areas of Government have an enormous range and effect on American life. GEORGE's careful and precise approach to the subcommittee's work greatly influenced the quality and productivity of the three departments and our judicial system. The appropriations process was GEORGE's forte and he worked diligently each year in determining spending priorities and supporting programs to improve the workings of a significant portion of the Federal Government.

GEORGE O'BRIEN was a kind and considerate man with humanitarian concerns and an abiding respect for life and liberty. In the noted case of Father Lawrence M. Jenco, a native of Joliet, IL, GEORGE pressed unrelentingly and used every avenue possible to try to secure Father Jenco's freedom. I know we owe Father Jenco's recent release in large measure to the fact that GEORGE O'BRIEN would not give up on his efforts to bring his constituent and fellow American back from the abyss of terror. It is very sad that GEORGE's passing occurred only days before his prayers and yearlong appeal were answered.

GEORGE will be deeply missed in the U.S. Congress. In a speech in this Chamber not long ago, he spoke poignantly of brotherhood and goodwill. Truly, no other among us stood better for these ideals. I know I join with all my colleagues in

feeling the loss of a good and respected friend and in expressing deepest sympathy to Mary Lou O'Brien and her family.

Mr. SCHEUER. Mr. Speaker, I want to join my colleagues here today in honoring the memory of our splendid colleague—GEORGE O'BRIEN.

GEORGE O'BRIEN was a conscientious legislator who was more interested in the integrity of the congressional process than in obtaining headlines in the media.

Those of us in the House who knew GEORGE remember him as an honorable public servant who put the good of the Nation before partisanship, and beyond that a thoroughly fine, decent human being who enjoyed the warm friendship and deep respect of Members from every point of the congressional spectrum. GEORGE was a kind and delightfully amiable guy.

As a member of the House Appropriations Committee and the ranking member of its Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, State, and Judiciary, GEORGE O'BRIEN gained the respect of his colleagues on both sides of the aisle for his diligent work on that panel.

GEORGE O'BRIEN is best remembered by his colleagues for his support for programs to aid the handicapped and his efforts to preserve the Legal Services Corporation.

He will also be remembered for being the first Member of Congress to meet with Syrian President Hafez Assad about Americans held captive in Lebanon.

The Reverend Lawrence Jenco—one of the American hostages—grew up in GEORGE O'BRIEN's congressional district.

Ironically, only days after GEORGE's death, Reverend Jenco was released from captivity.

He favored cooperation over confrontation—and his word was like gold. I, for one, will miss GEORGE O'BRIEN's presence in this body.

He represented the best of Congress—someone who put the interests of his Nation and his constituents first and foremost.

Mr. MOORHEAD. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to have this opportunity to share in a tribute to my friend, GEORGE O'BRIEN. We came to the Congress the same year. We served in the same party and, more often than not, we held the same views on issues.

GEORGE was a quiet man. He was not one quoted day after day in the national news, but he served his constituents effectively. He was a man of strength who stood firmly for what he believed. That was evidenced time after time while he served the people of Illinois' Fourth District here in the Congress, but

never more clearly than on a recent evening when he came in a wheelchair, too weak from his illness to walk, to cast his vote for a principle he believed in. He demonstrated daily a commitment to duty and responsibility that led him to great successes in many areas.

GEORGE was a gentle man. He was a man with many friends from all walks of life. He always had kind words to say about others. He cheered up whatever room he walked into with his big smile and happy stories.

One of the most outstanding things about GEORGE was his strong faith in his God and his strong faith in his country. He practiced that faith consistently and by his very life encouraged others to strengthen their own faith in both God and country.

And then, there was GEORGE's love for his family. He and Mary Lou were good friends and loved doing things together. They shared a great love for, and pride in their two daughters. It was the kind of life that illustrates the very best things about being part of a family.

We miss GEORGE O'BRIEN and shall continue to miss him. But our lives are richer because he shared them for a time.

Mrs. Moorhead joins me in extending our deepest sympathy to Mary Lou and the girls. We pray that God will bless them especially during this time when they are learning to go on with their lives without GEORGE.

Mr. SHUMWAY. Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to have this opportunity to pay tribute to the late GEORGE O'BRIEN, a man who distinguished himself as a Member of this House, and as a caring citizen.

GEORGE befriended me when I was a newly elected freshman, something I am not likely ever to forget. He was a warm, likeable man who made it a point to learn the interests of others, and he went out of his way to discuss them with obvious concern. He provided guidance and leadership, knowledge and experience, and a fine example of the committed, responsible legislator.

GEORGE O'BRIEN cared deeply about the people of his district, his State, and the Nation. To the very end, he was outspoken and courageous in his positions. I doubt that the memory of his last appearance in this Chamber will ever dim for any of us who were privileged to share it. No matter what his own personal sacrifice, he was here defending that in which he believed, and making every possible effort to convince others of the rightness of the cause. It was an emotional

moment but, more importantly, it served to remind us all of the serious mandate we have been given.

GEORGE O'BRIEN left a deep mark on the Congress he served with ability, and with affection. He will long be remembered. I extend my most sincere condolences to his family, and I am indeed grateful for having had the privilege to know and work with him.

Mr. GOODLING. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to a dedicated and distinguished former colleague, GEORGE O'BRIEN.

GEORGE was an outstanding individual who dedicated his life to our country. A veteran of World War II, GEORGE's political career demonstrated his devotion to his fellow Americans. Since his election to the House in 1972, GEORGE served as a diligent member of the Appropriations Committee and as the ranking GOP member of the Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, State, and Judiciary. He fought for programs that advanced humanity and truly believed that his position as Representative of the people was of paramount importance in his personal quest to create a stronger Nation.

GEORGE O'BRIEN was one of the warmest, gentlest, and kindest human beings I have ever met. We will miss this great man. I am saddened by our loss, but I know that his spirit will always remain.

I wish to express my heartfelt sympathy to the family of Congressman GEORGE O'BRIEN.

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, today we pause to honor a true man of the people, GEORGE O'BRIEN. GEORGE was a highly esteemed colleague who will be missed greatly by the people of the fourth district of Illinois, and his friends in the House of Representatives.

I believe the entire membership of the House recognizes and appreciates GEORGE's hard work on the Appropriations Committee. During his 14 years of service, he served the commmittee and the Republican Party in a most commendable manner. His family and friends can be proud of his accomplishments and his service to the people in his district.

Throughout his tenure he tried to protect the interests of the underdogs, by supporting and promoting funding for programs designed to serve low-income families and the handicapped.

I consider it an honor to express my respect and admiration for GEORGE. Like you all, I will miss him greatly.

Mr. JONES of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, like our colleagues, I was greatly saddened by the death of our colleague, GEORGE O'BRIEN. He served this Nation with great dignity and distinction during his time in the House of Representatives. More importantly, GEORGE brought a special sense of obligation to his fellow human beings that set him apart from the average person.

I, for example, didn't serve on any committees with GEORGE O'BRIEN and since we were on opposite sides of the political aisle we didn't have occasion to work together on projects of mutual interest. But GEORGE went out of his way to befriend me and get to know who I was and what kind of person I am. Most importantly, his warm, outgoing, and compassionate manner gave me an opportunity to know him and gain an immense amount of respect for him.

GEORGE O'BRIEN was a good man. All of us who had the privilege of serving with him in this Chamber are better people for having known him. Our Nation was blessed with having him serve here. I want to extend to his wife and family my deepest sympathy at this time of their great loss.

Mr. IRELAND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share a few moments with my colleagues in paying tribute to my friend, GEORGE O'BRIEN. My remarks will be brief, but they are sincere, for I loved GEORGE O'BRIEN, and his death has left a void that cannot be filled.

GEORGE's service in the Congress began before mine, but for him it was just the continuation of a life of service to his neighbors, to his State and his Nation.

His service was selfless and effective. He worked hard and long, and if we had not seen before, we all were in awe as we watched GEORGE's tireless, continuing, and personal efforts in behalf of his friend, former hostage Lawrence Jenco. How very much GEORGE must have enjoyed Father Jenco's homecoming.

Ours is the finest deliberative body in the world, and we each hold a great trust from our constituency. No one fulfilled his stewardship better than GEORGE. He represented the best we have to offer, and the command and dignity with which he performed his representative duties is an inspiration.

Nancy and I extend our sympathies to GEORGE's family. We know your loss and your grief. But we've also found great comfort in the many warm memories we will always have of GEORGE, and feel blessed to have shared his friendship.

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I join with House Members today in honoring the memory of our late colleague GEORGE M. O'BRIEN.

I feel honored to have had the opportunity to serve in the Congress with GEORGE O'BRIEN and especially to have had the chance to serve with him on the Appropriations Committee. He was a diligent Member who represented the Fourth District of Illinois for nearly 14 years with a gentlemanly and effective style.

I think I will remember most his courage and his compassion.

I will never forget that dramatic evening when this body was voting on the question of aid to the Nicaragua Contras and GEORGE, fighting so bravely against cancer, came courageously to this floor to cast his vote for an issue he believed was so important to our Nation.

I will also remember GEORGE's work on the Appropriations Committee where he mixed a sense of fiscal responsibility with a sense of compassion and fought hard for money for the handicapped and juvenile justice.

He also was a staunch supporter of the National Institutes of Health and convinced us of the need to establish a National Institute of Nursing at NIH to provide a nursing research arm to improve disease prevention and cut medical costs. He was so concerned about providing effective nursing services at NIH and justly compensating the nurses who work there that he joined in cosponsoring my legislation on the need for special pay rates in the civil service for categories of employees such as nurses who are in hard-to-fill professional positions.

GEORGE O'BRIEN leaves a proud record of public service and involvement in Republican politics in Illinois and a distinguished career as a Member of Congress. We feel his loss very deeply and express our sincere sympathy to his wife Mary Lou and their two children.

Mr. ROGERS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to join with my colleagues in mourning the passing of our colleague, GEORGE M. O'BRIEN.

The Fourth District of Illinois, the Congress, and our Nation have benefited greatly from the presence of Mr. O'BRIEN in the Halls of Congress. He brought to us a deep devotion to his work, a profound dedication to serving his district, and a lasting commitment to the well-being of our Nation.

It has been a particular honor to serve under his leadership on the Appropriations Committee. I have seen on a firsthand

basis, day by day, his untiring efforts to serve his constituents and his country.

But perhaps the incident which best illustrates GEORGE O'BRIEN's stature of service to our Nation occurred several weeks ago during the critical vote on aid to Nicaragua. The vote count was extremely close and the implications for the future of democracy in the Western Hemisphere were enormous. GEORGE O'BRIEN got up from his sickbed, putting his own serious problems to one side, and came here to the Capitol. He arose from his wheelchair and cast his vote with the President, helping us to victory.

In looking at his own selfless courage and unremitting efforts, I could only reflect whether the rest of us are willing to devote similar effort for the sake of democracy and freedom. And I have no doubt that this action and his lifelong record of dedication to the highest principles of our Nation will inspire a new generation to follow in his worthy footsteps.

I extend my deep condolences to GEORGE's wife, Mary Lou, and to their daughters. We join in your mourning and deep and lasting regard for one of our Nation's great men.

Mr. LIVINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, GEORGE O'BRIEN was not only a dedicated and capable Member of Congress, but a man whose friendship I greatly valued. Last summer, GEORGE, his wife, Mary Lou, and my wife and I traveled to Europe together. That's when I became closest to GEORGE, and when I began to admire what a truly wonderful person he was. During the trip, GEORGE broke away from the group and journeyed to Syria in hopes of winning the release of the Reverend Father Lawrence Jenco, a native of Joliet, IL, in GEORGE's district.

GEORGE was absolutely tireless in his efforts to free Father Jenco.

Despite an illness that would grow more serious by the day, GEORGE O'BRIEN never gave up. This was truly a quest about which he felt strongly. In honor of GEORGE's unfailing diligence, I have remembered him in my weekly editorial column. The complete text of the column follows:

We may never know exactly why Father Lawrence Jenco was released last month after being held captive for more than 500 days by terrorists in Lebanon. But the seeds of Father Jenco's freedom were planted, and then nurtured for nearly a full year, by Congressman GEORGE O'BRIEN of Illinois.

Like many heroes, Congressman O'BRIEN did not live to witness the fruits of his labor. He died last month of cancer, 9 days before Reverend Jenco was freed.

Mr. O'BRIEN was the first Member of Congress to go to Syria on Father Jenco's behalf. He met not only with Syrian President Hafez Assad and other

high-ranking Syrian Government officials, but with representatives of the Vatican, Britain, Egypt, France, Iran, Israel, Turkey, and the United Nations.

Back in Washington, Congressman O'BRIEN worked with the State Department, the White House, the CIA, and other Government agencies to help win Father Jenco's release. When his health permitted, he made speeches on the floor of the House so that Congress would not forget the plight of Father Jenco and the other hostages. Congressman O'BRIEN even scheduled a return trip to Syria, but his illness prevented him from going.

In other words, he did not leave a stone unturned.

Two days before Mr. O'BRIEN passed away, when he must have known that death was near, the Congressman told his wife that he regretted not living to see Father Jenco freed.

When the news of Father Jenco's release reached Washington, the reaction of those close to Congressman O'BRIEN was, understandably, bittersweet. They were elated that Father Jenco could finally return home, but saddened that Congressman O'BRIEN would not be there to welcome him.

Thinking of Mr. O'BRIEN's "never quit" attitude toward winning Father Jenco's release, a friend of the Congressman remarked: "When Mr. O'BRIEN died, I knew he would talk to God about Father Jenco. This just proves there is no bureaucracy in Heaven."

The release of Father Jenco has prompted emotional pleas for the Reagan administration to win the release of the remaining hostages by meeting the demands of their terrorist captors. But the official Reagan administration policy remains not to negotiate with terrorists, and Congressman O'BRIEN understood this. He recognized the difference between quiet diplomacy and knuckling under to terrorists' demands.

The issue is not merely how to gain the release of the remaining U.S. hostages in Lebanon, but how to do so without rewarding terrorism, undermining our national interests and jeopardizing the future safety of all U.S. citizens.

After all, terrorists do not kidnap Americans simply for the sake of holding Americans hostage. They do it with the hope of holding American foreign policy hostage.

The Reagan administration—indeed, any President's administration—cannot afford to permit its sympathy for innocent hostages to outweigh its determination to conduct a foreign policy free from blackmail. While it has an obligation to seek release of hostages, the administration has an obligation to millions of potential hostages to deter future kidnappings by convincing terrorists that they gain nothing when they seize U.S. citizens.

President Reagan has instructed the State Department to make no concessions that reward terrorism. Although we do not know all of the reasons why Father Jenco was freed, his release is evidence that President Reagan's approach is working.

And I would like to think that, somewhere, GEORGE O'BRIEN is resting happily, a job well done.

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I had the distinct pleasure to serve with GEORGE on the Appropriations Committee where he played an important role as ranking minority member on the Commerce, Justice, State, and the Judiciary Subcommittee. GEORGE also was particularly active in the area of medical research as a member of the Health Appropriations Subcommittee, on which we served together.

During the past year, GEORGE worked diligently with the members of the subcommittee to provide adequate resources to improve our Nation's ability to understand and treat kidney disease, the ultimate cause of GEORGE's untimely death. The subcommittee included in the fiscal year 1987 appropriations bill, which appropriately passed the House earlier today before this special order, funding to establish six new kidney research centers within the National Institutes of Health. Because of GEORGE's special interest in this area of medical research, the Appropriations Committee has directed that these new centers be named the GEORGE O'BRIEN Centers in honor of his service and work in this area.

Perhaps my lasting memory of GEORGE will be his special effort last month to cast a critical vote to release funding for the Contra forces in Nicaragua. Despite suffering from a terrible illness the past few months, GEORGE was courageous enough to be here the evening of June 25 because he knew his vote was important to the national security of our nation.

In the midst of a heated foreign policy debate, the Members of the House stopped to greet GEORGE when he entered the Chamber. The warm expression of friendship and concern for our colleague is testimony to the high regard and esteem we held for GEORGE O'BRIEN.

We would do well to remember GEORGE's words that evening, for they sum up what is so great about this body, our Government, and our Nation. GEORGE said:

"I note that there is a certain sense of fraternity irrespective of views, irrespective of party, that transcends all the other differences we have."

Those words are true, Mr. Speaker, because our Nation protects our freedoms and liberties. Our Government gives us the right to freely debate the issues of the day. We may disagree at times on policy matters, but we all would agree that ours is the greatest Nation in the world.

GEORGE O'BRIEN was a distinguished American who played an important role during his 14 years of service here in preserving the freedoms we cherish. His ideals and standards are those that our current and future colleagues would do well to emulate.

Mr. NATCHER. Mr. Speaker, my friend GEORGE M. O'BRIEN was not only an outstanding Member of the House of Representatives, but was one of the best members we have ever had on the Committee on Appropriations.

During this service in the House of Representatives, he established an outstanding record—one that this people can be proud of and one that will always be remembered by those who served with him in the House. Words are inadequate to fully appraise GEORGE O'BRIEN's tremendous capacity for loyalty and love of his country. In every position he held, either private or public, he achieved distinction. His service in all of his assignments was marked by a high sense of conscience and duty. His character, his achievements, and his faithful service will be an inspiration to generations yet to come.

His life exemplifies those virtues that make a great Congressman and those are fairness, generosity, and an unyielding devotion to all matters which were for the best interests of our country. He left his mark on Congress, not necessarily through legislation which he succeeded in having enacted, but instead through his character itself, he was always a gentleman.

It was a distinct honor and privilege to serve on the committee that appropriates the money for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Service, and Education with my friend GEORGE O'BRIEN. I have lost a true friend and this country has lost a great statesman. To his lovely wife and family, I extend my deepest sympathy in their bereavement.

Mr. MYERS of Indiana, Mr. Speaker, it seems like only yesterday that I met a new Member of the incoming class of the 93d Congress whom I had previously known by name only. His district, the Fourth of Illinois, is just across the State line and I had observed the outstanding campaign he had waged from media reports. That new Member was jovial, happy, intelligent, self-assured, outgoing, and was GEORGE O'BRIEN. At first meeting, I felt like I had known him all my life.

GEORGE was one of the most capable people to ever serve in this House. In his straightforward manner, he always accepted responsibility with determination that the task was going to be done and done right.

My wife, Carol, and I had the opportunity to travel on several occasions with his wife, Mary Lou, and him on Appropriations Committee investigations. He was the first to get to the meetings and the last to leave. He always put himself completely into everything he undertook. In meeting international groups, he was a leader in greeting and extending the U.S. friendship. He was a most active ambassador of good will.

We remember GEORGE for a great many things during his career here in the House, but certainly one of his deep felt feelings was for the hostages held in Lebanon. He spoke many

times about his good friend from his home town of Joliet, Father Jenco. His hard work here and his personal trips to the Middle East to seek their release were rewarded, but too late for us to thank him. I believe that GEORGE did have a hand in Father Jenco's release which came within days after his death. For that, we all say, "Thanks GEORGE."

We are going to miss that robust laugh, the slap on the back, the hug, and the spirit that GEORGE always added.

The people of Joliet, the Fourth District of Illinois, his State of Illinois, and our Nation are truly fortunate to have had GEORGE O'BRIEN serve these 14 years in the House of Representatives. We thank the good people of Illinois for sharing GEORGE with us.

Carol and I extend our sympathy to Mary Lou, their daughters and grandsons. Our prayers are with you.

Mr. SCHULZE. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to be able to pay tribute to our esteemed colleague, the Congressman from Illinois, GEORGE M. O'BRIEN. We are all saddened by his death. He was a dedicated American and an inspiring figure to all of us in this Chamber.

I could tell you a good deal about his myriad contributions in public service. But I think as I honor GEORGE O'BRIEN for the man he was, and for the warmth and humor he shared with us all, it will explain why he was a truly great servant of the people.

It is especially gratifying to hear my colleagues mention GEORGE's wit and his particular ability to make the difficult situations easy. That was GEORGE's charm: He never had a mean thing to say, was always quick with a joke, and was dedicated to a purpose. He was always able to achieve positive results through his command of fact coupled with his warm personal approach. GEORGE worked through reason and cooperation rather than by confrontation. And he achieved results.

And now, we have still another reminder of his contributions to his country. As many of my colleagues have said, Father Jenco, a hostage of terrorists for nearly 2 years, was released just days after GEORGE's passing. It certainly would have made him proud, and it makes me proud as it stands as a tribute to GEORGE's tireless efforts and dedication to the cause of human rights for all human beings.

GEORGE O'BRIEN was a man of courage and dedication. His presence on the floor late last month was, and will be, an inspiration to his colleagues. GEORGE came, despite the pain, to cast a crucial vote on aid to the Nicaraguan freedom fighters.

That's the way he was, always willing to help out and to do what he could to pull us together. I greatly admire his dedication to this body, a true and honest legislator, a wonderful and effective representative of the people of Illinois.

Let me conclude by extending my sympathy to Mary Lou, and all of the O'Brien family. We will all miss GEORGE.

Mr. MILLER of Ohio, Mr. Speaker, it was with deep sadness that I learned of the passing of our dear friend and colleague, GEORGE O'BRIEN. It won't seem the same around here without GEORGE. His quick Irish wit; his kind and gracious manner; his astuteness on the issues, his dedication to the tasks at hand, were the hallmark of his long and distinguished career in the Congress.

As one who was a colleague of GEORGE not only in the House as a whole, but as a member of the Appropriations Committee, I saw first hand the many good deeds GEORGE O'BRIEN accomplished for the people of Illinois Fourth District, and for the people of his State and Nation.

GEORGE was a legislator's legislator. He performed his job in a most professional, able, and dedicated manner. He was a doer and it will be hard to do without him in these Chambers. To his lovely wife Mary Lou, and to his family, my wife Helen and I would like to express our deepest sympathies.

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, GEORGE O'BRIEN was a friend of mine. I am truly sorry about his passing away, as he was such a unique and warm person. Our friendship began when we learned about our belonging to the same college fraternity, Sigma Chi, and it continued through the years we served together. His last appearance in the House of Representatives occurred just as I was beginning my speech on an amendment relating to the Communist threat in Central America. Although he was quite ill, he returned to the House and was given a long ovation for his efforts in being there. I express my sincere sympathy to Mrs. O'Brien and the members of his family. GEORGE O'BRIEN will be truly missed in the House of Representatives.

Mr. OXLEY. Mr. Speaker, I was deeply saddened to learn of the death of my Sigma Chi Fraternity brother, friend, and former colleague, GEORGE M. O'BRIEN. The Members of this body have lost a dedicated public servant, a man of great honor and ability.

GEORGE's public service began long before he entered the U.S. Congress in 1973. In fact, his devotion to public service

began nearly 30 years ago when he was a member of the Will County Board of Supervisors. In 1970, he won election to the Illinois State House.

As a storyteller, GEORGE O'BRIEN knew few rivals. He had an effervescent personality, which added zest and vitality to his tales. Perhaps GEORGE's yarn-spinning ability gave the best insight to his personality: He was not a vain or pompous man, but a good-natured public servant.

As a member of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Health and Human Services, GEORGE was a staunch supporter of money for the handicapped. GEORGE was personally active in many charitable activities. GEORGE was my partner in the 1982 Lombardi Charity Golf Tournament, which, thanks to GEORGE's superior golfing skills, we won.

My sympathy and prayers go out to GEORGE's wife, Mary Lou, and to the entire O'Brien family. Their loss is, indeed, great. But, while sadness is present, I know how fortunate we all have been to have known a man like GEORGE O'BRIEN.

WEDNESDAY, *September 10, 1986.*

The SPEAKER. Today we have the great honor and pleasure of having as our visiting chaplain a person who is known to all Americans, a hero to all of us, the Reverend Lawrence Martin Jenco, a Servite priest from Joliet, IL.

Rev. Lawrence Martin Jenco, Joliet, IL, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray:

Father, do not turn from us, and do not avoid us now that we are looking for words to pray to You.

If we call You God and speak Your name it is because You first pierced the silence and called us sons and daughters.

You have given us Your word that You will not be far from us whenever we turn to You in faith.

And so we cast aside our doubts and our fears and place our trust in Your promise to us.

Long ago You breathed upon the waters and stirred them to life.

We ask You now to breath Your spirit once more upon our world which so desperately seeks a new heart and a new spirit which only Your touch can bring.

But You have promised us that good will be triumphant, that all will be restored to You, that death and pain will be no more.

God of love, I stand and pray with and for these men and women who govern this Nation of ours.

Lead us from death to life, from falsehood to truth.

Lead us from despair to hope, from fear to trust.

Lead us from hate to love, from war to peace.

Let peace fill our hearts, our world, our universe.

I thank You for the precious gift of my freedom. Please, dear God, grant freedom to all of Your sons and daughters our brothers and sisters who are held captive, by whatever means around the world. We ask especially that You grant freedom to Tom Sutherland, David Jacobsen, Terry Anderson, and Frank Herbert Reed.

Father, keep in Your eternal love and embrace GEORGE O'BRIEN. Amen.

Proceedings in the Senate

MONDAY, *July 21, 1986.*

Mr. HEINZ. Mr. President, I served in the House with GEORGE O'BRIEN. He was a fine Member, one we all really, genuinely loved. He will be sadly missed, not just by his many friends but, of course, by his family and close relatives as well.

I have not spoken with the majority leader to determine to what extent he plans to permit the Senate to travel to Representative O'BRIEN's funeral. I shall certainly urge him to do his very best to do so, not just because of the relationship I was privileged to have over the years with GEORGE O'BRIEN, but because I think Representative O'BRIEN was a Congressman whom we all respected and admired. I know the Senator from Illinois was among those people who truly respected and appreciated the fine work he did.

Mr. DIXON. Mr. President, on behalf of my distinguished colleague from Illinois, Senator Simon, and myself, I rise in profound sorrow to speak in behalf of the resolution concerning the death of a distinguished Member of the Illinois congressional delegation, the Honorable GEORGE M. O'BRIEN, of Joliet.

Mr. President, I understand that the Senate at the conclusion of its business today will recess as a further mark of respect to the memory of the late Representative GEORGE O'BRIEN of Joliet.

Tomorrow Members of the House, Senator Simon, and myself, will attend the funeral mass at the Cathedral of St. Raymond in Joliet for Congressman GEORGE O'BRIEN.

Mr. President, my distinguished colleague, Senator Simon, and I served in Illinois government with GEORGE O'BRIEN. GEORGE O'BRIEN came to the Illinois House in 1970. He served there with great distinction at the time that Senator Simon was Lieutenant Governor of Illinois and I was treasurer of our State.

Congressman O'Brien was elected to the United States House of Representatives in 1972 and served there until his untimely death last week.

He was a very active member of the Illinois congressional delegation, Mr. President. Our delegation, 22 Members of the House and the two Senators, meet on a regular basis several times a month. So far as I can recall, Congressman George O'Brien, up until the very end of his life, regularly attended and participated in an ongoing way in the activities of the Illinois congressional delegation.

On a personal basis, my wife Jody and I were very close to Mary Lou and George O'Brien. They lived in our building. Mary Lou still lives in our building, Crystal Gateway Condominium in Arlington, and we were together with them on a social basis from time to time.

Those in this place who knew him know what a positively lovely and charming and decent and fine man George O'Brien was. He was an excellent public man and he was a very decent man, Mr. President, and a very fine and charming and wonderful man in his private life.

I would like to just say this to my colleagues, because they have some understanding of it, and, Mr. President, having come here to the Senate one time as, I recall, during an illness to cast a vote, you will understand this.

A couple of weeks ago they were having the Contra vote in the House. It was to be a very close vote. The Republican leader in the House is Bob Michel from Peoria, in my State. I had gone home about this time in the evening or so and driven into the garage in Crystal Gateway Condominium where I live and Congressman O'Brien was just coming out of the elevator in a walker, being helped by aides to get into his automobile.

I said, "George, where are you going?" He said:

Oh, Alan, Bob Michel called me and said that they would need my vote tonight; that the issue was a close one and he did not know the result, what it would be. I am in a great deal of pain, a great deal of pain, but I am going to go there to vote.

And you could see that his face was full of pain, Mr. President. And I went up to my apartment and watched television of the House in session that evening and, in short order, Congressman O'Brien appeared on the floor of the House of Representatives and all of his colleagues stood out of affection for him and out of respect for him and gave him a standing ovation. And he just made some simple remark and said:

What a wonderful, marvelous thing it is to live in this country and to be able to come to this House in a divisive moment like this one and see everyone so friendly and so nice to one another.

Up until that moment that debate had been so bitter and vitriolic. And after GEORGE O'BRIEN said that, you could see the sweetness from that man flow through the House.

He cast his last vote, Mr. President, as a Congressman in support of his leader, in support of his President, in support of the position of his party and discharged in every way until the last moment of his life his responsibility as a great public man.

And I say on behalf of the people of my State, Mr. President, on behalf of my colleague Senator Simon, on behalf of every Member of the U.S. House of Representatives from the Illinois congressional delegation, all 21 still surviving, that we all loved him. He was a good and decent man. And the people of his district, Mr. President, are greatly fortunate that they had such a fine and wonderful man serving them for so many years in the Congress of the United States.

Mr. HEINZ. Mr. President, I send a resolution to the desk on behalf of myself, Mr. Dixon, and Mr. Simon, and ask for its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 449) relating to the death of the Honorable GEORGE M. O'BRIEN, a Representative from the State of Illinois.

SENATE RESOLUTION 449

Resolved, That the Senate has heard with profound sorrow the announcement of the death of the Honorable GEORGE M. O'BRIEN, late a Representative from the State of Illinois.

Resolved, That the Secretary communicate these resolutions to the House of Representatives and transmit an enrolled copy thereof to the family of the deceased.

Resolved, That when the Senate recesses today, it recess as a further mark of respect to the memory of the deceased Representative.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to the present consideration of the resolution?

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there debate on the resolution? If not, the question is on agreeing to the resolution.

The resolution (S. Res. 449) was agreed to.

Mr. HEINZ. Mr. President, I move in accordance with the previous order, and pursuant to the provisions of Senate Reso-

lution 449, as a further mark of respect to the memory of the deceased Honorable GEORGE M. O'BRIEN, late a Representative of the State of Illinois, that the Senate stand in recess until 9:30 a.m., Tuesday, July 22, 1986.

The motion was agreed to, and the Senate, at 7:26 p.m., recessed until Tuesday, July 22, 1986, at 9:30 a.m.

WEDNESDAY, *July 23, 1986.*

Mr. ABDNOR. Mr. President, the Congress of the United States has lost two of its finest in recent weeks.

Yesterday, while the Senate was eulogizing the late Honorable John East, the funeral was being held at the Cathedral of St. Raymond in Joliet, IL, for my good friend, the Honorable GEORGE O'BRIEN, who represented the Fourth District of Illinois since 1973.

GEORGE and I came to the House of Representatives the same year. Not only were we members of the same class in the Congress; we found we were brothers in Sigma Chi and soon became close friends.

His genial Irish charm, his legislative skills, his unquestioned personal integrity, his willingness to listen and consider, his loyalty, his sense of responsibility, and his determination to carry out his responsibility regardless of personal cost endeared him to all of us, and commanded our respect.

Indeed, this sense of responsibility brought him to Capitol Hill for the last time on June 25 for his final vote and his final brief comments to his colleagues.

The vote was cast in loyalty to his President, his leader, and most importantly, his personal conviction of what is right for the United States to do in Nicaragua.

His comments that evening, responding to the standing ovation from his colleagues as he entered the Chamber, bespeaks what most of us feel about this institution:

> It is such an honor to be one of you. You are wonderful people, and I note that there is a certain sense of fraternity irrespective of views, irrespective of party, that transcends all the other differences we may have.

This "sense of fraternity" is possible because of people like GEORGE O'BRIEN.

Our love and sympathy goes to Mary Lou and their family as we share their great loss.

May he rest in peace.

MONDAY, *July 28, 1986.*

Mr. DOLE. Mr. President, America and the Republican Party lost a good friend on July 17 when Representative GEORGE O'BRIEN died. Representative O'BRIEN served as the Congressman from Illinois' Fourth District for 14 years.

As one of the senior Republicans on the House Appropriations Committee, Representative O'BRIEN helped shape policy on issues ranging from the Legal Services Corporation to international trade. GEORGE O'BRIEN was an ardent advocate of aid to the handicapped and often pushed for adequate Federal funding on their behalf.

Mr. President, Democrat and Republican alike respected and admired GEORGE O'BRIEN for his quiet diligence and all of Congressman O'BRIEN's colleagues were saddened several months ago when they learned he would not seek reelection because of ill health.

One incident, shortly before the Fourth of July recess, exemplified GEORGE O'BRIEN's commitment to service. Extremely ill, he made his way to the House floor because he believed his vote was needed to ensure passage of aid to the Nicaraguan Contra rebels. This kind of dedication to duty was characteristic of GEORGE O'BRIEN's career in the House.

Mr. President, I take this opportunity to extend my sincerest sympathy to Representative O'BRIEN's family, his many friends, and his constituents back in Illinois.

FRIDAY, *August 8, 1986.*

Mr. HOLLINGS. Mr. President, on July 17 of this year, Illinois lost one of her most effective Representatives, the Nation lost a dedicated public servant and we in the Congress lost a distinguished and valued colleague. Many words have been written about GEORGE O'BRIEN extolling his warmth, his congeniality, and his valiant struggle during the last several months. Each of us who know GEORGE have our own personal memories which we will cherish. My own are of meetings of the Conference Committee on Appropriations through the years. I have often thought sessions like these test the true mettle of a person, particularly a politician. There are no television cameras, no reporters, and no constituents present. In short, it is a place for thrashing out differences, a task which often seems thankless as well as terribly time-consuming.

George was always there, always participating and always able to cool tempers by providing a practical approach to thorny problems and at times a ready quip (or even one of his renowned bad jokes) to clear the atmosphere. All of us in public life have had the privilege of meeting a great number of people. Naturally, some impress more than others. And occasionally, one stands out as the epitome of a fine human being. This was George O'Brien and I will truly miss him.

To his beloved Mary Lou, their daughters, and grandsons, I extend deepest sympathy. May their warm and loving memories of this truly outstanding gentleman sustain them in this time of sorrow as our remembrances sustains us, his friends.

APPENDIXES

Welcome of Father Lawrence Jenco
Upon His Release From Captivity

Proceedings in the House

TUESDAY, *August 5, 1986.*

Mr. HAMILTON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Affairs be discharged from further consideration of the resolution (H. Res. 524) welcoming Father Lawrence Jenco back to the United States after 18 months in captivity, encouraging those who assisted in securing his release to help in securing the release of the remaining hostages in Lebanon, and for other purposes, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. Gray of Illinois). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Indiana?

Mr. BLOOMFIELD. Mr. Speaker, reserving the right to object, at this time I yield to the chairman of the Subcommittee on Europe, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. Hamilton), to explain the purpose of this resolution.

Mr. HAMILTON. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of House Resolution 524, welcoming Father Lawrence Jenco back to the United States after 18 months in captivity and encouraging those who assisted in securing his release to help in securing the release of the remaining hostages in Lebanon.

Mr. Speaker, the tragedy of the civil war in Lebanon has preoccupied all of us at one time or another over the last few years. The hostage issue has been among the most important matters we have followed in Lebanon.

Since January 8, 1985, when Father Jenco was taken hostage and several other Americans were taken hostage in subsequent months, few issues have united this Congress more than support for efforts to obtain the early release of the hostages. Over the many months, members of the Committee on Foreign Affairs have met frequently with the families of the hostages and have urged the United States to step up diplomacy to obtain the release of the hostages.

Those efforts must continue even as we celebrate the return of Father Jenco of Joliet, IL. And today, there would be no happier man than former Congressman GEORGE O'BRIEN, who worked so vigorously and persistently on behalf of Father Jenco's release.

Mr. Speaker, I want to commend the gentleman from California (Mr. Dornan) for this resolution. I also want the families of all the remaining hostages to know that we will continue, through private diplomacy and all other means available, to work for the early release of their loved ones.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support House Resolution 524, as amended.

Mr. BROOMFIELD. Mr. Speaker, reserving further the right to object, I yield to the principal sponsor of the resolution, the gentleman from California (Mr. Dornan), who has done so much to seek the release of Father Jenco.

Mr. DORNAN of California. Mr. Speaker, I thank my distinguished Republican leader on the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

There are still three hostages remaining in Lebanon, and I thank my chairman for his kind words about my efforts on behalf of the hostages; but in spite of our elation over Father Jenco's return, this dark cloud hangs over us. Three hostages, all of whom have been there for more than a year, must be fully aware that one of their numbers has probably died—Bill Buckley—although we still hold out the hope of hopes that he is alive.

I know they must also know that another hostage held by a totally different group that has never identified themselves by name, did brutally murder the librarian from our American University in Beirut on April 17, dumping his body in an alleyway in Beirut; Mr. Peter Kilburn.

The saddest thing about the remaining three hostages is that for over a year they were in special company with two men of God, Father Jenco and Benjamin Weir. I do not think there has ever been a prisoner in history where there was a relationship of chaplains to prisoners of 2 to 3, although the chaplains were themselves hostages. But with the release of Reverand Benjamin Weir last September and the release of Father Jenco on July 26, a few days ago, these three hostages have now lost their two men of God, and continue to languish in the their dungeon without the chaplains there to give them solace.

These must be very dark days for David Jacobsen and for Thomas Sutherland, both men of the American University in

Beirut: The former being the director of the hospital. God knows, no nation on Earth needs hospital care more than the torn citizens of Beirut. Tom Sutherland was there as the acting director of the agriculture department to give some of our American skills in agronomy to the people of the Middle East.

Terry Anderson's bracelet that I now wear, was given to me by his sister on Friday when we were all enjoying Father Jenco's company. He is there merely to report the news, as the AP bureau chief.

So I would like to take this opportunity, Mr. Hamilton and Mr. Broomfield, to thank President Assad of Syria. We have serious and tense differences between our two governments, but I believe as one Member that Mr. Assad was sincere when he said he would redouble his efforts to get our hostages out. He told me that personally in his offices on June 30. To prove the point I will remind you that when Father Jenco was released, President Assad sent a message to the Prime Minister of Greece. I have that confidential communique right before me.

He said there were two things that caused Syria to intensify its efforts to get our hostages out. One was the visit of Mrs. Margaret Papandreou, the wife of the head of state of Greece, who is, as we all know, an American citizen, and the second reason was a letter signed by 260 Congressmen. Unfortunately they counted doubles. You see, I was so vigorous around the floor that I got nine double signatures. It was 251, in reality but still is a significant letter.

They did leave out in the letter the trip of Mr. GEORGE O'BRIEN last August 10 through 12 that the gentleman from Indiana referred to,

But I would like to say something about GEORGE's trip right now.

When the Syrians received Father Jenco last July 26, before they turned him over to our Ambassador, who is doing a superb job, Mr. Bill Eagleton, and his great team of diplomats there in Damascus, they brought in, to meet Father Jenco, Mrs. Peggy Say. She is the sister of AP bureau chief Terry Anderson, one of the hostages, and let her have a private moment with Father Jenco. We saw the initial embrace and tears, and then they had a private moment.

Then they brought in and introduced to Father Jenco, and I think this is stunning, two Syrian diplomats, what we would call FSO's, Foreign Service officers. President Assad told Father Jenco that after GEORGE O'BRIEN's visit a year ago next week, he assigned two members of his foreign embassy to do

nothing but work the Jenco case. That is what one Congressman, GEORGE O'BRIEN was able to do with one trip on his own. His staff told me over the weekend that he was discouraged from making that trip to speak out for one of his constituents.

So I express my gratitude to President Assad, and I tell him,

Mr. President, press on, get the other three Americans back, and the South Korean, and the Irishman, and the Englishman, and the four Frenchmen—maybe there are five Frenchmen there now—to get all these people back. You referred to them, President Assad, as "innocents," and that they certainly are. I am sending you another letter signed by House Members, hopefully the rest of our leadership together with Mr. Wright, Mr. Michael, and Mr. Broomfield, and Mr. Hamilton, who are all on the first letter. Let us see if we cannot remove the suffering innocents from this agony that we see before us in Beirut.

I truly thank both of my colleagues for their efforts in expediting this greeting. I only wish that they had been there with me and GEORGE O'BRIEN's widow in the longest parade that I have ever seen, 4 or 5 miles through the streets of Joliet with a bride and groom standing on the curb waiting to run into the street to grab Father Jenco's hands; to see Father Jenco's little grand-nephews and nieces, in little yellow T-shirts, 15 or 20 of them that said, "Welcome home, Great Uncle." And as I told Father Jenco, that T-shirt's saying had a double meaning because aside from being a great uncle, he has been a great man. He has been particularly outstanding in the dignity with which he accepted the suffering and the cross that God meted out to him.

I want to see three other parades, one in Huntington Beach, CA, one somewhere in Colorado, and I forgot to ask Peggy Say where she and her brother were, possibly in upstate New York. We need those other parades. We need our innocent American citizens back.

So thank you, President Assad. Press on. I will be circulating that letter in the House in the next few days. Thank you, Chairman Broomfield, it is an honor to serve with you.

Mr. BROOMFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I just merely want to add my congratulations to the gentleman from California (Mr. Dornan) for all the work he has done and to the chairman of our committee. I also want to join in saying, "Welcome home, Father Jenco."

Mr. Speaker, we were all overjoyed to receive the news that Father Lawrence Jenco was released after 18 months in captivity in Lebanon's Bekaa Valley. Our colleague from California, Mr. Dornan, introduced the resolution we are now considering

and I want to commend him for his attention to this important event.

American hostages ruthlessly kidnaped in Lebanon are all the innocent victims of terrorism fostered by the political and religious turmoil in that battered country. This resolution expresses the elation of the House of Representatives at the release and homecoming of Father Jenco. It also restates the firm commitment of this body to securing the safe release of the remaining hostages held by the Islamic Jihad. Last, it expresses the gratitude of the House to all governments and individuals involved in securing the release of Father Jenco and encourages their continued assistance toward a full resolution of the hostage situation.

This measure is an important statement of our joy during the homecoming of Father Jenco and our continued concern that all other Americans held hostage in Lebanon be released. I urge my colleagues to support the resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I join wholeheartedly in support of this resolution.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this very appropriate resolution, welcoming Father Lawrence Jenco back to the United States.

I think it is appropriate to note at this point those Members who have been devoting their time and efforts in a special way, to the plight of the American hostages in Lebanon. First and foremost, was our beloved friend and colleague, the late gentleman from Illinois, Congressman GEORGE O'BRIEN. The effort to gain the release of his friend, Father Jenco, was a major preoccupation of GEORGE O'BRIEN over the many months of his final illness. It is a tragedy that he did not live to see the fruition of his efforts—the release of Father Jenco.

Others prominently involved in this effort have been the gentleman from California (Mr. Dornan), who has traveled, at risk to his health, to Syria, trying to move the Syrians to use their influence in this effort. The gentleman from California (Mr. Dymally) has also been involved in trying to focus the attention of the Congress and the administration on this matter. We should also acknowledge the profound interest in the fate of the hostages evidenced by the chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. Fascell) the ranking member, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. Broomfield), and the chairman of the Subcommittee on Europe and the Middle East and of the Select Committee on Intelligence, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. Hamilton). These Members

have been active in informal "task force" monitoring efforts to free our hostages.

Mr. Speaker, we must continue to exert every effort, and seize every opportunity, to work for the release of the remaining hostages, and indeed, to work for peace in Lebanon, bearing in mind that we should not advocate steps which would compromise our underlying policies or which would lead to further violence. We cannot let the killers of our diplomatic staff in Kuwait, for example, go unpunished. I want to commend the work of our State Department, and indeed, the leadership of the President and the Vice President on this issue. Finding the right levers to move in a case like this one is excrutiatingly difficult. The Assistant Secretary for Near East and South Asian Affairs, Richard Murphy, has been hard at work on this issue, as has Ambassador Oakley, the coordinator of antiterrorism affairs at the Department, and I know that Secretary Shultz has taken a personal, active interest in the resolution of this case.

It is with warm hearts and great joy that we welcome Father Jenco back to the United States. Let us now rededicate ourselves to the return of the remaining hostages in safety and dignity.

Mr. BROOMFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I withdraw my reservation of objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Indiana?

There was no objection.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

HOUSE RESOLUTION 524

Whereas Father Lawrence Jenco was released on July 26, 1986, after 18 months in captivity in Lebanon's Bekaa Valley;

Whereas at least four Americans—Terry Anderson (chief Middle East correspondent for the Associated Press), Thomas Sutherland (Dean of Agriculture at American University in Beruit, Lebanon), David Jacobsen (Administrative Director of American University Hospital in Beruit, Lebanon), and William Buckley (United States diplomat)—are still being held hostage by the pro-Iranian terrorist organization calling itself Islamic Jihad;

Whereas David Jacobsen was allowed to appeal by videotape to the United States Government to intensify its efforts to secure the safe release of the remaining hostages; and

Whereas the American hostages taken in Lebanon have all been the innocent victims of political and religious turmoil and are suffering unjustly at the hands of extremists: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) on behalf of the American people, expresses elation at the return of Father Lawrence Jenco after 18 months of captivity in Lebanon;

(2) restates its firm commitment to securing the safe release of the remaining hostages;

(3) condemns the act of taking hostages, and any other act of terror, as a means of influencing the foreign policy of the United States;

(4) urges a full accounting of the well-being of United States diplomat William Buckley, to be followed by his return to his relatives as soon as possible; and

(5) expresses gratitude to all governments and individuals involved in securing the release of Father Jenco and encourages their continued assistance toward a full resolution of the hostage situation.

Mr. HAMILTON. Mr. Speaker, I offer an amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Amendment offered by Mr. Hamilton: In the text of the resolution, strike out "and" at the end of paragraph (4); strike out the period at the end of paragraph (5) and insert in lieu thereof "; and"; and after paragraph (5), insert the following:

(6) condemns all those governments and individuals who have control over areas in which kidnapers and other terrorists operate, or who have the ability to influence those who exercise such control, and who by their actions or inactions allow acts of terrorism directed against United States citizens or others, and calls upon them to comply with their international obligations to act to prevent acts of international terrorism.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. Hamilton).

The amendment was agreed to.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the resolution, as amended.

The resolution as amended, was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

George M. O'Brien Visitor Center

Proceedings in the Senate

WEDNESDAY, *September 10, 1986.*

Mr. DIXON. Mr. President, today I am proposing an amendment to reverse a very regrettable omission in the Interior appropriation bill by the Senate Appropriations Committee.

The House bill included language in the general provisions for the Department of the Interior which would designate a visitor center for the Illinois and Michigan Canal National Heritage Corridor as the "George M. O'Brien Visitor Center," in memory of this great man and in recognition of his outstanding leadership in the effort to gain national recognition of this historic canal and corridor.

As my colleagues know, GEORGE O'BRIEN was a dear friend of mine and of many others here. He was as dedicated a public servant as I have ever known, and he made a difference to his country and his State.

This amendment does not add one penny to this bill. It merely names an already existing visitor center in Lockport, IL, in Representative GEORGE M. O'BRIEN's district, after a man who was deeply involved in the establishment of the National Heritage Corridor. In fact, $1 million has been spent on the renovation of the Gaylord Building, the oldest industrial building in Lockport, into a visitor center, museum, and restaurant.

The Interior appropriation does not include funds which my colleague, Mr. Simon, and I requested for the operation of the Heritage Corridor Commission in the amount of $250,000. We regret that the committee failed to appropriate this modest sum, but hope that it will be given favorable consideration in conference.

The Illinois and Michigan Canal has exceeded our expectations in its first 2 years of existence. It has been the impetus for many economic development projects in addition to recreation and historic projects. It has generated much more in State, local, and private funds than the modest Federal contribution.

At the end of my remarks I would like to include a list of projects which are directly attributable to the I and M Canal National Heritage Corridor.

Mr. President, I hope the committee's action was an oversight, and that there will be no objection to restoring the language honoring our friend, former Representative GEORGE O'BRIEN, with a most appropriate tribute, making him a permanent part of the project he worked so hard to see realized.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that a list of progress reports on the canal and how it has helped this area of Illinois be printed in the Record.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the Record, as follows:

I AND M CANAL—PROGRESS REPORT

Several new projects are underway which are directly attributable to the National Heritage Corridor designation which was granted to the I and M in 1984.

(1) New funds from the State of Illinois of over $1 million for use on new trail development along the canal. Also, renovation of the lodge at Starved Rock State Park, and work on locks.

(2) The U.S. Steel/Heritage Business Park.—This project would not have happened without the National Heritage Corridor designation. It will eventually create 1,500 new jobs in Joliet. Requests for proposals are already distributed for the first phase of this project. It is the first time that a grant from the National Trust for Historic Preservation was made to a corporation for the purpose of developing a plan for utilizing this site. The company matched the $45,000 grant, and the result was a plan for this new redevelopment project. It is precisely what we all hoped to achieve with the National Heritage Corridor.

(3) The Gaylord Building renovation in Lockport, Illinois.—This is the oldest industrial building in Lockport. $1 million is being spent to develop it into a restaurant, banquet facility, visitors center and museum. 55 new jobs are anticipated to be created by this project.

(4) Joliet downtown redevelopment.—The National Trust named 8 urban development demonstration projects. Joliet was one of them.

(5) Waterfront Park in Bridgeport is being developed at the site where the canal begins. It will be a community park and gateway to the corridor.

(6) Cook, DuPage and Will County Forest Preserves are developing a 25-mile canoe trail on the Des Plaines River.

(7) Cache Island in the Will County Forest Preserve District is being developed as a major visitors' center with interpretation of the French and Indian periods.

(8) The State of Illinois purchased Fitzpatrick House as the headquarters for the National Heritage Corridor Commission.

(9) In Lamont, Illinois, a $20 million project, a private psychiatric hospital, Four Winds, will be located on the Brown Family estate. It will be a teaching institution affiliated with the University of Chicago. The private company listed the corridor as one of the factors it considered in locating in Lamont.

(10) Buffalo Rock Effigy Tumuli is a mine reclamation project in Ottawa, Illinois. There are 1.5 miles of abandoned strip mines owned by the Ottawa

Silica Co. The Abandoned Mined Lands Reclamation Council included the site on its list of priorities and $1 million was going to be spent to reclaim it as a flat field. Edmund Thornton, President of Ottawa Silica, decided to make it something special, and hired Michael Heizer, an earth sculptor. He was inspired by Indian mounds, and has created five sculptures of animals out of the land. They are the largest earth sculptures in the world. Additional costs were assumed by Thornton and the National Endowment for the Arts. It has received world-wide attention and is the subject of an extensive article in the April edition of Smithsonian Magazine. It will be a major tourist attraction within the National Heritage Corridor.

There are many other projects in various stages of development. But it is fair to say that much has been accomplished in the short life of the National Heritage Corridor. The expenditure of millions of dollars in private, state and local funds and the promise of thousands of jobs.

TUESDAY, *September 16, 1986.*

Mr. DIXON. Mr. President, on behalf of Senator Simon and myself, I send an amendment to the desk and ask for its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The amendment will be stated.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Illinois [Mr. Dixon] for himself and Mr. Simon, proposes an amendment numbered 2833.

Mr. DIXON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment is as follows:

"The Secretary of the Interior shall designate the visitor center to be associated with the headquarters of the Illinois and Michigan Canal National Heritage Corridor as the "George M. O'Brien Visitor Center" in recognition of the leadership and contributions of Representative GEORGE M. O'BRIEN with respect to the creation and establishment of this national heritage corridor."

Mr. DIXON. Mr. President, very briefly, this amendment sent to the desk on my behalf and on behalf of my distinguished colleague, Senator Simon, reflects a vote of the Illinois congressional delegation, all 22 Members of the House and the two Senators, to name the visitor center at the I&M Canal Park in honor of GEORGE O'BRIEN, the distinguished representative and Congressman from that district who passed away a few weeks ago.

The chairman of the committee has graciously acceded to my request to accommodate me and the Illinois delegation in connection with this amendment.

I believe that there is no opposition to the amendment, it having been cleared by the manager of the bill and the ranking minority member.

Mr. McCLURE. Mr. President, we have no objection to the amendment.

Mr. MELCHER. Mr. President, this side agrees with the amendment also.

Mr. DIXON. Mr. President, I am very pleased that the distinguished floor manager of the Interior Department appropriations bill, Senator McClure of Idaho, has agreed to accept my amendment naming the visitor center for the Illinois and Michigan Canal National Heritage Corridor after the late Illinois Congressman GEORGE O'BRIEN.

This is, indeed, a fitting honor to the memory of a man who, as much as any other, was responsible for the creation of the National Heritage Corridor.

GEORGE O'BRIEN passed away on July 17, but the contributions he made to his State and his country will live on for a very long time.

He was as dedicated a public servant as I have ever known, and by designating this visitor center with his name, we make him a permanent part of the project he worked so hard to bring into existence.

Mr. President, it was my honor to serve with GEORGE O'BRIEN in State government in Illinois and for almost 6 years in Congress.

He was, as I have said on this floor before, a charming man, a decent man, a fine man.

He was greatly beloved in his home district and in his hometown of Joliet—as well he should have been.

This National Heritage Corridor that he worked so hard on will, I think, ultimately, serve as his greatest legacy to the people of that district. It will bring tourism and other kinds of economic development to a part of our State that has faced difficult times in recent years.

It will bring jobs to the district, and new people to the district.

When they look around them and see the historic restoration projects that are a part of the corridor, and the recreation areas that are part of the corridor, and all the other things at-

tributable to the corridor that will improve the quality of life in that part of Illinois, I hope they will think of GEORGE O'BRIEN.

Mr. President, naming the visitor center after GEORGE O'BRIEN will make it that much easier to think of him, and I am grateful to my colleagues in the Senate for accepting this amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the amendment of the Senator from Illinois.

The amendment (No. 2833) was agreed to.

Newspaper Tributes to George M. O'Brien

[From a newspaper obituary]

GEORGE M. O'BRIEN

A Republican U.S. Representative 4th District of Illinois, Serving his 7th consecutive term. Age 69 years. Thursday, July 17, 1986 at the National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, MD. Born in Chicago, June 17, 1917. A graduate from Loyola Academy 1935, Northwestern University A.B. Phi Beta Kappa 1939, Yale Law School J.D. 1947. A World War II Veteran. A Lieutenant Colonel U.S. Air Force serving with the 8th and 12th Air Force 1941–1945. State Representative 44th District of Illinois, 1971–1972, Senior Partner of the law firm, O'Brien, Garrison, Berard and Kusta, 1966–1978. Elected to the Will County Board of Supervisors, 1956–1964. Assistant Supervisor of Joliet Township, 1956–1964. Member of the Legislative Advisory Committee to Northeastern Illinois Planning Commission, The American, Illinois, and the Will County Bar Associations, Trail Lawyers Association of Illinois, American Legion, V.F.W., Sigma Chi Fraternity, the Joliet Elks Lodge #296, and the American Legion Harwood Post #5. Preceded in death by his parents, Matthew and Isabella Hyde O'Brien. Survived by his wife, Mary Lou (Peyla) O'Brien of Joliet; two daughters, Caryl (Timothy) Bloch of California and Mary "Deborah" Pershey of Hoffman Estates; three grandsons, Bryan Matthew Pershey, Brandon O'Brien Bloch and Anthony George Bloch; brother-in-law of Louis (Edna) and Charles (Jacquelyn) Peyla both of Joliet; also several nieces, nephews and cousins. Visitation for GEORGE M. O'BRIEN will be Sunday, July 20, 2–5 p.m. and Monday, July 21, 4–7 p.m. at the Fred C. Dames Funeral Home, 251 N. Center at Campbell Sts. Mass of Christian Burial will be 11 a.m., Tuesday, July 22, 1986 at the Cathedral of St. Raymond Nonnatus. Bishop Joseph L. Imesch, Main Celebrant. Entombment Resurrection Mausoleum. Memorials to George Werden Buck Boys Club, St. Joseph Medical Center or the National Cancer Institute, Bethesda, MD would be appreciated.

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[From the Aurora Beacon-News, July 18, 1986]

AREA MOURNS REPRESENTATIVE GEORGE O'BRIEN

(By Robert Estill)

Representative GEORGE O'BRIEN, 69, the Joliet Republican known in Congress for his amiable manner and persistence on parochial issues, died at 5:40 p.m. Thursday at the National Cancer Institute in Bethesda, Md.

The cause of death was complications from cancer, according to an O'Brien aide.

O'BRIEN represented the Joliet area in Congress for nearly 14 years. The 4th District boundaries were changed in 1982 to include the East Side of Aurora and parts of Kendall County.

"All of us who knew him, worked with him and shared his concerns for America know that this country has lost an important voice in its national lead-

ership," remarked Vice President George Bush. "I will always treasure his friendship."

Dallas Ingemunson, Kendall County GOP chairman, called him a "fine gentleman" who will be "missed on the political scene."

State Representative Jack Davis of New Lenox, who was nominated to replace O'Brien on the November ballot after O'Brien withdrew from nomination, said the kind of man O'Brien was rather than what he did as a congressman was the key to his popularity.

"He was decent, he was scrupulously honest, he was a caring and compassionate man," Davis said. "People genuinely liked the man the moment he met them."

State Senator Aldo DeAngelis of Chicago Heights, a close friend of O'Brien, said he was a "man of only one face." O'Brien was "very unusual in that he was as sincere and as honest and as compassionate in his political relationships as in his personal relationships," he said.

O'Brien abandoned his bid for an eighth term May 16 after learning during the course of treatments for severe spinal arthritis and disc deterioration that he had an active prostate cancer.

He had received chemotherapy and radiation therapy while hospitalized from May 19 to June 18 at the NCI and was readmitted to the Institute July 6 after developing shingles, a painful viral infection.

O'Brien's survivors include his wife, Mary Lou, and two daughters, Caryl Bloch of Los Angeles and Mary Pershey of Chicago. The congressman's wife was at his side when he died in the intensive care unit, the O'Brien aid said.

Funeral Mass will be Tuesday at St. Raymond's Roman Catholic Church in Joliet. Vistitation will be from 5 to 7 p.m. Sunday and 3 to 5 p.m. Monday at the Fred C. Dames Funeral Home in Joliet. O'Brien's wife is flying in with the body late this afternoon, according to an aid. Funeral arrangements are incomplete.

O'Brien made his last appearance in Congress on June 25 when he left his sickbed and entered the House chambers in a wheelchair, after a month-long absence, to cast his vote in support of President Reagan's request for aid for Contra rebels in Nicaragua.

President Reagan called O'Brien the next day to thank him and to say that he believed O'Brien's dramatic gesture swayed a few votes. Reagan's aid request carried 221–209.

O'Brien's congressional seat will remain vacant until his successor takes office in January. Davis, chosen July 12 to succeed O'Brien as the Republican candidate by GOP precinct and township committeemen in the 4th District, will face Democratic Shawn Collins of Joliet in the Nov. 4 general election.

Although a senior member of Congress and a member of the powerful House Appropriations Committee, O'Brien rarely was prominent in national or international affairs. He prided himself on his parochialism.

O'Brien's efforts in Congress focused on trying to improve the economy in his district, particularly his Joliet home base that was hit hard by the recession and has been slow to recover.

He played a leading role in obtaining funds for the Joliet Job Corp Center; restoring money the Reagan administration wanted to cut from the Argonne National Laboratory budget; creating the Illinois and Michigan Canal National Heritage Corridor; and, his most persistent challenge, attempting to revitalize the Joliet Army Ammunition Plant.

O'Brien became a player in international diplomacy because one of his prevailing parochial interests was securing the release of the Reverend Lawrence Martin Jenco, a Joliet native, and four other Americans missing in Lebanon.

Always ready with a joke or an eager audience for one, O'Brien's congenial manner was one of his chief stocks in trade. He said he considered a sense of humor and an easy-going manner not only natural traits but necessities for a Republican in a Democratic-dominated House.

"When you are in the minority, what others can do by muscle, you have to do by friendly persuasion," O'Brien said in an interview last year.

But he was prepared to play political hardball when necessary. He threatened last year to vote against MX missile funding in a successful move to block the Pentagon from reneging on a commitment to do design studies on the Joliet plant as a potential production facility for new explosives.

A political moderate, O'Brien usually supported the President but he was not an automatic vote for the administration. He used his position on the Appropriations Committee to block administration attempts to scuttle the Legal Service Corp. and the Juvenile Justice Program.

[From the Kankakee Daily Journal, July 18, 1986]

Representative George O'Brien

The entire area lost a dear friend in Congress Thursday evening.

U.S. Representative George M. O'Brien, R-Joliet, died at the National Cancer Institute in Bethesda, Md., ironically, at the same time his fellow House members were debating an O'Brien sponsored appropriations bill.

O'Brien was serving his seventh term in Congress and during the past 13 years, he has represented many of the counties in the Journal's readership area. He served his constituents during those years with quiet distinction and with great devotion to their needs.

First elected in January of 1973, he represented the old 17th Congressional district, which included all of Kankakee and Iroguois counties, most of Will County and all of Bloom Township in Cook County. The Joliet attorney had previously served Will County as a county board member and a state representative. After the congressional remap of 1981 and the election of 1982, his district boundaries shifted north and he no longer represented Kankakee and Iroquois counties, but continued to serve Will County.

As an elected official, he was a down-to-earth, nice guy who had a gift of being able to remember thousands of people by name. He responded promptly to his constituents' requests, serving his two congressional districts in top-notch fashion.

Congressman O'Brien played the congressional role real low-key, but that position served him and his constituents well. Because of his low profile, he could work behind the scenes on both sides of the aisle within the political system, often getting many House Democrats to vote with him when he needed them.

In 1979, he challenged a congressional pay raise, leading the unsuccessful House floor fight on the issue. During that battle, he gained national media attention when he argued the common man's view that legislators ought not to raise their pay in the middle of "a contract." He later returned his pay hike to the federal treasury until the end of that term, backing up his statement.

O'Brien had a tough row to hoe as a freshman congressman. Four days after he was elected, the federal government announced it was closing the Joliet Arsenal, which represented $27 million a year income to this area's economy. O'Brien was able to get the closing date extended one year, which permitted hundreds of workers there to fulfill retirement requirements. Other-

wise, they would have had to relocate to other federal jobs with only a year left before they could retire. Still later, in the 1980s, he joined the battle with U.S. Representative Edward Madigan to get the arsenal reactivated. That battle continues.

O'Brien was instrumental in getting the Metro Water Pollution Control project for the Aroma Park-Kankakee-Bradley-Bourbonnais area funded. He was a driving force behind the Will-Joliet Bicentennial Park project and the federal building in downtown Joliet. He improved all of the community action programs in his districts and brought the Joliet Job Corps training center, first to Wilmington and later to Joliet.

Personally, both he and his wife, Mary Lou, were as nice as they appeared to be. They sincerely wanted to do the best job they possibly could for the people they represented. They were a perfect congressional couple: attractive, personable and at ease with kings and presidents in Washington, as well as factory workers and farmers back home.

George O'Brien quietly left his mark on all the people he touched and all the people who were touched by him were better off for it. This area has lost a true friend in Congress.

[From the Joliet Herald-News, July 18, 1986]

Cancer Claims Congressman

(By Madeline Hildebrand and Robert Estill)

U.S. Representative George M. O'Brien, the genial Joliet Republican known in Congress for his amiable manner and persistence on local issues, died at 5:40 p.m. Thursday at the National Cancer Institute in Bethesda, Md. He was 69.

The cause of the death was complications from cancer, an O'Brien aide said.

O'Brien, who represented the Joliet area for nearly 14 years, gave up his bid for an eighth term May 16 after learning during the course of treatments for severe spinal arthritis and disc deterioration that he had prostate cancer.

O'Brien had found out around Christmas of 1984 that he had an "inactive" prostate cancer and was not treated at that time, an aide said.

O'Brien revealed the cancer only to his family until mid-May this year, when he learned that the cancer was active, the aide said.

O'Brien received chemotherapy and radiation treatment from May 19 to June 18 at the National Cancer Institute.

He was readmitted to the institute July 6 after developing shingles, a painful viral infection marked by a rash and blisters that an aide said was "a not too uncommon" reaction to his medication.

O'Brien's wife and constant companion, the former Mary Lou Peyla of Joliet, was at his bedside when he died.

He is survived also by two daughters, Caryl Isabel Bloch of Los Angeles and Mary Deborah Pershey of Chicago.

A funeral mass for O'Brien will be held Tuesday at the Cathedral of St. Raymond Nonnatus. The time has not been set. His body was being flown back to Joliet today by military plane and accompanied by Mrs. O'Brien.

O'Brien's 4th Congressional District seat will remain vacant until his successor takes office in January. Competing for the seat in the Nov. 4 election will be Republican Jack Davis of New Lenox and Democrat Shawn Collins of Joliet.

O'Brien's concern for his constituents was paramount and never-ending. He prided himself on answering all mail, no matter how insignificant.

He rarely was prominent on national or international matters. He prided himself on his parochialism.

"When I am a player in the national scene, it has a parochial interest," he said in an interview last year. "That is my first responsibility."

But O'Brien became a player in international diplomacy because of one of his local interests—securing the release of the Reverend Lawrence Martin Jenco of Joliet, a captive in Lebanon.

He kept in contact with members of the Jenco family to exchange information on the hostage situation. He traveled to Damascus last August to meet with Syrian President Hafez Assad in an effort to get Syrian help in dealing with the Shiite Moslem captors of the American hostages.

O'Brien made his last appearance in Congress on June 25 when he left his sickbed and entered the House chamber in a wheelchair, after a monthlong absence, to cast his vote in support of President Reagan's request for aid to the Contra rebels in Nicaragua.

Reagan called O'Brien the next day to thank him and say that he believed O'Brien's dramatic gesture had swayed some votes. The aid request was approved, 221–209.

A native Chicagoan, O'Brien graduated from Loyola Academy in Chicago in 1935 and received his bachelor's degree from Northwestern University, where he was elected to Phi Beta Kappa, an honorary scholastic fraternity, in 1939.

An Air Force veteran of World War II, he served with the 8th and 12th Air Force and achieved the rank of lieutenant colonel. With his return to civilian life, he enrolled at Yale University, where he earned a law degree in 1947. He practiced law with his father in Chicago for several years.

He came to Joliet to make his home after his Sept. 6, 1947, marriage to Mary Lou Peyla. He joined a Joliet law firm.

In 1956, with the support of the Republican party, he was elected to the Will County Board of Supervisors as an assistant Joliet Township supervisor. He headed the Finance Committee. During his eight years on the board he was outspoken and fought for what he felt was right.

Herman Olivo, one of the board members with whom he served, recalls that on one occasion when O'Brien was finance chairman, a heated argument was going on. Suddenly O'Brien burst into song with a strong, vibrant voice. It startled the board members but eased the tension.

In November 1972 he was elected to his first two-year term. He was returned to Congress six more times and was in his 14th year in the House. He found that his 25 years as an attorney served him in good stead. It also gave him the confidence to speak out on the House floor.

An affable, soft-spoken individual, he believed that more could be accomplished with sugar than with vinegar. With this philosophy, he managed many times to get those on the opposite side of the political fence to join his cause. Considered an effective legislator, he was respected on both sides of the fence.

With his seniority in the House came appointments to important committees. Most recently he was on the Appropriations and the Armed Forces committees. He also, served on subcommittees on Labor, Health, Education and Welfare, responsible for almost 45 percent of the federal budget. He helped to organize and long was chairman of the House Republican Task Force on the Handicapped.

O'Brien's efforts in Congress focused on trying to improve the economy in his district, particularly his Joliet home base, which was hit hard by recession.

He played a leading role in creating the Illinois and Michigan Canal National Heritage Corridor, obtaining funds for the Joliet Job Corps Center, restoring money the Reagan administration wanted to cut from the Argonne National Laboratory budget, and his most persistent challenge—attempting to revitalize the Joliet Army Ammunition Plant.

O'Brien had been in office only three days when the Pentagon announced plans to mothball the plant, which had been a major employer in his area. Since then, he worked with private industry and the government to make use of the sprawling facility.

Honeywell Inc. is producing munitions there now, and O'Brien had pushed the Pentagon to produce other explosives there.

Always ready with a joke or an eager audience for one, O'Brien had a congenial manner that was his stock in trade. He said he considered a sense of humor and an easy-going style not only natural traits but necessities for a Republican in a Democratic-dominated House.

"When you are in the minority, what others can do by muscle you have to to do by friendly persuasion," he used to say.

But he was prepared to play political hardball if necessary.

Although he generally supported Reagan and his programs, O'Brien did not hesitate to oppose legislation he did not agree with. He threatened to vote against MX missile funding in a successful move to block the Pentagon from reneging on a commitment to do design studies on the Joliet Army Ammunition Plant as a potential production facility for new explosives.

Earlier this year he successfully used a similar ploy, bluntly and publicly warning the Pentagon, "You can kiss my votes goodbye," to prevent the layoff of more than a third of the Uniroyal Inc. employees who maintain the plant on a standby basis.

He used his position on the House Appropriations Committee to block administration attempts to scuttle the Legal Service Corp. and the Juvenile Justice Program.

He also challenged the administration by attempting to create a nursing research center at the National Institutes of Health, the complex that included the cancer institute where he died.

In his earlier years in the Joliet area he served on a variety of civic committees, working to help those less fortunate. He was chapter chairman of the Will County Red Cross; one year he headed the Joliet-Will County Community Chest Crusade, a forerunner of United Way; and he was one of the organizer of the Joliet Boys' Club, where in later years he was honored with a distinguished service award.

He and his wife were longtime members of Cathedral of St. Raymond Nonnatus Parish. To him religion was an all-important facet of life. For a number of years he enjoyed singing in the Cathedral Choir, a talent some of his closest Washington friends were not aware of. But there are many Joliet couples who say with pride, "George sang at our wedding."

Unpretentious and sincere, he had the ability to give his undivided attention to any and all individuals and causes when the occasion demanded. He also was quick to laugh at himself.

A gentle, kindly man, he enjoyed being told he was a look-alike for actor Lorne Greene, who starred in TV's "Bonanza." O'Brien would chuckle heartily when someone told him that he was better-looking than Greene.

[From the Joliet Herald-News, July 18, 1986]

Joliet Friends Share Memories

(By Lea B. Kerr)

Joliet friends of U.S. Rep. George O'Brien and his wife, Mary Lou, today shared memories.

Marietta Hart Fitzgerald and the former Mary Lou Peyla have been friends since they were 5 years old.

"George was a superhuman," Fitzgerald said. "After they met, he became her life and it was a very mutual thing. They were completely devoted to each other. Neither one hesitated to share what they had in life with somebody else.

"I think one of the blessings in our life was the fact that our husbands enjoyed each other's company. I think George and Mary Lou were an inspiration to every other couple their lives touched," Fitzgerald said.

"After their marriage they moved to Chicago, where George practiced law with his father (Matthew). One of the happiest days in our lives (she and her husband, William) was when they came back to Joliet to settle."

As close as Fitzgerald and Mrs. O'Brien were, they would not be bridesmaids for each other's wedding, because the Fitzgeralds were married three days before the O'Briens.

O'Brien and Phil Schaack, retired president of Joyce Beverages Co., grew up on Chicago's North Side.

Their families' apartments were back to back. O'Brien was closer in age to Schaack's older brother but was popular with all the youngsters. Schaack recalled how they played games in the streets.

"He was popular with all the kids of all ages," said Schaack.

When they want to Loyola Academy in Chicago, O'Brien excelled in swimming and football. Later, when they were both students at Northwestern University, Schaack remembers how O'Brien stood head and shoulders above others, and how he was a leader even then.

"He was fun-loving and excelled in everything he did," said Schaack.

Their paths crossed about 20 years later in Joliet, and a longtime friendship resumed. Schaack became campaign director when O'Brien first ran for Congress and in all succeeding campaigns. Schaack said trust and loyalty were special traits of O'Brien's.

Dr. Charles Wollak, the O'Brien family physician when they lived in Joliet, recalled their first meeting at the Boys Club in the early 1950's when it was on Bluff Street. Both were volunteers.

"I can never forget his kindness and consideration when he helped honor me with the National Man and Boy Award and how proud I was to receive it," said Wollak.

"Professionally it was an honor to be considered by George and Mary Lou as their doctor while they were in Joliet. Our friendship was especially close with his children. My wife, Anna, and I admired his kindness and humanity. He was a good human being. He was a good friend you could always rely on. His courage, compassion and enlightenment have helped many people."

Joliet attorney Francis Dunn, who is coordinating Will County Bar Association participation in the funeral services, said O'Brien was one of Joliet's most prestigious attorneys.

"We often tried cases against each other, but we were friends. I remember I was once the decoy for his birthday about six years ago in Washington. They always threw a big birthday party for George. I called him and said I would be in Washington and would meet him on the front steps of the Capitol. He sat

there for 30 minutes on the bottom step waiting for me until they got ready to bring him upstairs, where 300 people surprised him.

"He was a first-class American, strictly. If you were in any city, walking down the street and didn't know GEORGE O'BRIEN, you would say: "I bet that guy is a U.S. senator or congressman. He just looked like what you think a congressman should look like."

Thomas Feehan, Joliet attorney, said in a written statement: "GEORGE was my law partner, my political associate and most of all, my good and dear friend. I can recall many memories over the years which would portray his wonderful sense of humor, his quiet intelligence, his commitment to principles, his deep and abiding faith.

"I often introduced GEORGE at various functions and events. Many times I used the words written about St. Thomas More, patron saint of lawyers, whom GEORGE had a great regard for. I think those words fit GEORGE O'BRIEN so well—'A man of angels, wit and singular learning . . . for where is there a man of that gentleness and affability? And as times requires, a man of marvelous mirth, and sometimes sad gravity: a man for all seasons'—So was GEORGE O'BRIEN and the seasons will be poorer for his passing."

Bishop Joseph Imesch, head of the Joliet Diocese, remembered when the Catholic bishops issued the peace pastoral letter. O'BRIEN took the matter seriously, studied it and talked with other members of the House about it.

"I was very impressed with his eagerness to study the entire issue apart from partisan politics," Imesch said.

He characterized O'BRIEN as a statesman, rather than a politican. A statement looks at what is good for the country and votes that way, regardless of the party line. A politican votes the party line, he said.

Rabbi M.M. Hershman said today he never was formally introduced to O'BRIEN.

"We met through Community Chest work (now United Way)," said Hershman. They hit it off immediately.

"I had the privilege of being his friend for 35 years. We were like brothers."

Hershman was master of ceremonies for most of O'BRIEN's congressional campaign dinners and other functions honoring the congressman. They shared a special sense and humor. O'BRIEN came to Hershman's study frequently over the years just to talk and relax.

"He frequently called from Washington just to say: 'I love you, pray for me," said Hershman.

And this year when O'BRIEN was honored at a national medical conference, he told the audience: "When I get to the pearly gates, I hope Rabbi Hershman will be there to defend me."

"I will miss him sorely," said Hershman, recalling O'BRIEN's warm personality, infectious smile, sense of humor and the championing of causes for the handicapped and underprivileged.

[From the Joliet Herald-News, July 18, 1986]

O'BRIEN REMEMBERED FOR HELPING HIS DISTRICT

GEORGE O'BRIEN will be remembered for the many ways he helped the people of his district.

Mae Mihelich, sister of the Reverend Lawrence Martin Jenco, who has been held hostage in Lebanon since January 1985, reflected on O'BRIEN's efforts to release the priest.

"He was our only support when we first went to Washington," she said. "He was so concerned about how to go about getting the release of Father Jenco. He was so helpful to us in steering us in the direction we needed to do, go and see."

O'Brien went to Syria in August 1985 and talked with President Hafez Assad about negotiating the release of Jenco and other hostages.

"I'd hoped he (Jenco) would be released by now and would have been able to see him (O'Brien) when he was so sick," Mihelich said.

State Senator George Sangmeister, D-Mokena, characterized O'Brien as "a fine man, . . . a good friend and honorable gentleman."

Sangmeister, who is in St. Joseph Medical Center recuperating from a kidney stone operation, siad he and O'Brien referred matters to each other that affected their constituents. "We worked well together in that regard. He left his mark on this district."

Sangmeister recalled his election race against O'Brien for Will County state's attorney in 1964. O'Brien entered an appliance store in Mokena, not knowing that it was owned by Sangmeister's parents, and gave his best pitch to Mrs. Sangmeister for her vote.

"You're a fine man," Sangmeister recalls his mother telling O'Brien. But she said it was only right that she cast her vote for her son.

Joliet Mayor John Bourg remembered O'Brien's help in getting Joliet declared a separate federal statistical area in 1983.

Bourg said he had written letters and talked with many people in Washington, D.C., in an effort to get the designation to allow the federal government to maintain separate records on Joliet and help in getting federal and state aid.

"George finally said, 'I think I know who can do it' and lined up an appointment with David Stockman." Stockman was then the federal budget director.

A month after that meeting, O'Brien announced the separate statistical identity for Joliet.

O'Brien always was accessible to the people of the district, Bourg said. "His number one concern was developing a good staff who responded to citizen complaints and requests for help."

State Representative Jack Davis, R-New Lenox, recalled the only time he saw O'Brien angry was during his 1976 re-election campaign against Merlin Karlock.

"We were at a church on South Chicago Street," Davis said. "Merlin Karlock was known to make wild, exaggerated statements. He attacked George on his right-to-life stand. George was so mad that steam was literally coming out of his ears."

Since it wasn't O'Brien's turn to speak, Davis said he decided to attack Karlock on behalf of O'Brien.

"I called him a rear end," Davis said. "I just ripped Mr. Karlock up. And then I turned it over to George, who finished ripping Karlock up.

"I rarely ever saw him angry," he added. "He thought everybody was as warm and caring as he was, and people were when they were around him. He was such an affable, funny and warm-hearted guy."

State Representative LeRoy Van Duyne, D-Joliet, said he didn't know O'Brien well. They had always been in different political parties.

Van Duyne said he had followed O'Brien's career and considered him to be a person who was "making it." He said he felt badly for O'Brien and his family.

Will County Board Chairman John Annerino said, "When you needed GEORGE, GEORGE was there. GEORGE was a congressman for the people. He'll be missed."

Governor James Thompson was in Waukegan this morning and expressed his sympathies on the death of O'BRIEN.

"GEORGE O'BRIEN worked long, hard and honorably for the people of his district and the people of Illinois. He will be sorely missed," Thompson said.

[From the Hammond Times, July 18, 1986]

REPRESENTATIVE O'BRIEN DIES

Representative GEORGE O'BRIEN, the genial congressman known for his amiable manner and persistence on local issues, died Thursday.

O'BRIEN, R-Ill., died at 4:40 p.m. at the National Cancer Institute in Bethesda, Md. The cause of death was complications from cancer, according to an aide.

Mary Lou O'Brien, the congressman's wife of 38 years, was at his side when he died in the intensive care unit.

His death was revealed in a dramatic announcement on the House floor Thursday night by Representative Henry Hyde, R-Ill. Before adjourning for the night, colleagues paid tribute to O'BRIEN, by passing a resolution mourning his death.

"I am sure he will always be remembered as a man of integrity, gentility and compassion," said House Republican leader Bob Michel, R-Ill., a political ally and longtime friend.

Senator Paul Simon, D-Ill., a former House member, described O'BRIEN as "an honorable and superb public servant."

O'BRIEN's press secretary, Ted Cormaney, worked for him "off and on" for 10 years. "In addition to being a member of Congress and my boss, he was a hell of a guy," Cormaney said.

"He was one authentic nice guy," Cormaney said, "A lot of people think they're nice guys, but he was the real article."

O'BRIEN, 69, of Joliet, who represented the south suburbs and the Joliet area in Congress for nearly 14 years abandoned his bid for an eighth term May 16 after learning during the course of treatments for severe spinal arthritis and disc deterioration that he had an active prostate cancer.

O'BRIEN had learned "around Christmas 1984" that he had what was then considered an inactive prostate cancer and was not treated at the time, according to an aide to the congressman.

O'BRIEN revealed the cancer only to his family until mid May, when he learned that the cancer was active, the aide said. O'BRIEN had received chemotherapy and radiation therapy while hospitalized from May 19 to June 19 at the cancer institute, then continued receiving treatment as an outpatient.

He was readmitted to the institute's intensive care unit on July 6 because the therapy had suppressed his body's disease-fighting capability and brought on infections according to Cormaney.

O'BRIEN's survivors include his wife and two daughters, Caryl Isabel Bloch of Los Angeles and Mary Deborah Pershey of Chicago.

The funeral is expected to be held Monday in Joliet, but arrangements are incomplete.

O'BRIEN's congressional seat will remain vacant until his successor, to be chosen in November's general election, takes office in January.

State Representative Jack Davis, R-New Lenox, was chosen by Republican committeemen July 12 to succeed O'Brien as the GOP candidate in the 4th Congressional District. Davis will face Democrat Shawn Collins of Joliet in the Nov. 4 general election.

The congressman's fierce dedication to duty was shown when he left his sickbed and entered the House chambers June 25 in a wheelchair to cast his vote in support of President Reagan's request for aid for Contra rebels in Nicaragua.

In a shaky voice, an emotional O'Brien thanked his fellow lawmakers for their "warm reception, saying, "I note there is a certain sense of fraternity, irrepective of views, irrespective of party, that transcends all other differences that we have."

Reagan called O'Brien the next day to thank him and to say that he believed O'Brien's dramatic gesture swayed a few votes. The aid request was approved by 12 votes.

O'Brien, a lawyer, was a Will County Board member for eight years and a state legislator for two years before he was first elected to Congress in 1972.

Although a senior member of Congress and a member of the powerful House Appropriations Committee, O'Brien rarely was prominent in national or international affairs. He prided himself on this interest in local issues.

"When I am a player in the national scene, it has a parochial interest," O'Brien said in an interview last year. "That is my first responsibility."

O'Brien was instrumental in convincing Congress to fund the Little Calumet River Watershed Project, a massive flood-control project. He also convinced the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to force Lake County, Ind., to meet with Lansing representatives to reach agreement on a little Calumet River flood-control policy to prevent flooding in Lansing.

He also played a key role in attempting to resolve Sauk Village's housing problems. Acting on concerns that federally subsidized housing was causing deterioration of the village's housing market, he opened the doors so village officials could take their complaints to the U.S. Department of Housing and Development and the Federal Housing Administration.

O'Brien graduated from Yale University Law School in 1947, following service in the U.S. Army Air Corps during World War II.

[From the Aurora Beacon-News, July 19, 1986]

Colleague: O'Brien Irish Elf With Intellect

(By Robert Estill)

Representative George O'Brien, the Joliet Republican who died Thursday of cancer at age 69 was mourned by his colleagues as a warm-hearted man who left only friends.

"He did not have an enemy in the world," said Representative Henry Hyde, R-Bensenville, who announced on the House floor that O'Brien had died at the National Cancer Institute. "His friends were legion . . . If the word beloved can be used by any group of people, then that's the word to describe everybody's feelings around here. He was a beloved guy."

Hyde made the announcement because House Minority Leader Bob Michel, R-Peoria, was absent. Michel's office later released a statement from the GOP

leader, a close friend who had helped O'Brien win his seat on the House Appropriations Committee.

Michel said O'Brien's death is a "great loss for me both personally and professionally." I am sure he will always be remembered as a man of integrity, gentility and compassion. He was a good human being and politician who brought honor and dignity to the profession. Our state and our nation will miss him."

Representative Lynn Martin, R-Rockford, said O'Brien was "an Irish elf with intellect" who fought for causes in which he believed without making enemies.

"It is easy when someone dies to not have anyone say anything evil about them . . . but the fact is, alive, no one ever said anything but good things about George O'Brien."

"We all loved him and will miss him terribly," said Representative John Porter, R-Winnetka, who served on the House Appropriations Committee with O'Brien. "He was one of the most wonderful, warm human beings I have ever known."

[From the New York Times, July 19, 1986]

Representative George M. O'Brien Dies; G.O.P. Member From Illinois

Representative George M. O'Brien, Republican of Illinois, died Thursday at the National Cancer Institute in Bethesda, Md, according to Ted Cormaney, the Congressman's press secretary. Mr. O'Brien was 69 years old.

The death of Mr. O'Brien, who was suffering from prostate cancer, was announced on the House floor by Representative Henry J. Hyde, Republican of Illinois.

Mr. O'Brien withdrew from the Fourth Congressional District race May 16 because of health problems, including the cancer and severe arthritis. He was replaced on the November 4 ballot by State Representative Jack Davis of New Lenox, Ill.

Mr. O'Brien, born in Chicago, was elected to the House in 1972. He is suvived by his wife, Mary Lou, and two children.

[From the Chicago Heights Star, July 20, 1986]

Representative O'Brien Remembered as Good Man

(By Franklin Shuftan)

The late U.S. Representative George O'Brien was remembered with affection and sadness by friends and former colleagues following his death Thursday.

"Honorable" and "decent" were the two most common adjectives used to describe the 69-year-old congressman, who died of complications from cancer of the prostate.

"George was unique, because be was the same personally as he was politically," said state Senator Aldo DeAngelis (R-Olympia Fields), one of O'Brien's closest allies.

"He had integrity, compassion and above all dedication."

O'Brien, a Republican who represented parts of South Cook and Will counties in Congress, died at the National Cancer Institute in Bethesda, Md., where he had been treated on and off recently for cancer.

His death came only two months after he was diagnosed with a severe malignancy in his prostate, which led him to announce in Mid-May that he would not seek an eighth term in the U.S. House.

O'Brien had been readmitted to the hospital July 6 with a case of shingles, an outgrowth of his cancer treatments, according to a spokesman.

A native of Chicago, O'Brien was an Air Force veteran who was graduated from Northwestern University and Yale Law school.

O'Brien made his mark as a Joliet attorney who later served terms on the Will county board and Illinois House of Representatives before first being elected to Congress in 1972.

He was reelected to successive two-year terms in the next six elections, the most recent in 1984 when he received 64 percent of the vote.

O'Brien faced his toughest reelection battles in 1974, the Watergate year, and again in 1982, when reapportionment cast him into the same district as his friend and GOP colleague, then-Congressman Edward Derwinski.

Despite Republican efforts to find some solution to the dilemma, the two faced off in a primary. In a contest devoid of acrimony—remarkable by political standards—O'Brien won a narrow yet convincing victory.

O'Brien's political success often was attributed to the sheer force of his personality.

He was an emotional man who thought nothing of publicly hugging his friends and contemporaries.

He and his wife, Mary Lou, were practically inseparable, she generally accompanied him on trips back to the district and usually would be at his side as he campaigned.

O'Brien often would intersperse his speeches with football metaphors. Though corny, they became something of a trademark for him.

O'Brien lost only once in a race for Will county state's attorney during the 1964 Johnson landslide year to George Sangmeister, who later became a state senator.

"If there's to be an epitaph for George O'Brien, it is that he cared, that he was loved . . . that he radiated a warmth to which people responded," said state Representative Jack Davis (R-New Lenox), selected by Republican leaders last weekend to replace O'Brien on the November ballot.

In Congress, O'Brien was not known as a publicity seeker, but more as a loyal back-bencher who would support his leaders.

Only a few weeks ago, he was wheeled into the House chamber to cast a vote in favor of aid to Nicaraguan Contras. GOP leaders said he did so out of a firm conviction that he should support the party's position on the issue.

O'Brien was a ranking Republican on the House Appropriations committee and succeeded in recent years in gaining federal money for the Little Calumet Watershed Flood Relief plan which will benefit many Fourth district communities.

He was active in trying to gain the release of the Reverend Lawrence Martin Jenco, the Joliet priest being held hostage in Lebanon.

Last year, he secretly traveled to Syria to meet with leaders there he believed might be helpful in gaining the missionary's freedom.

Reaction came from area political figures in both parties.

"George was a good friend and an honorable gentleman," Sangmeister said. "We always handled constituent matters on a bipartisan basis, and enjoyed good cooperation with his office.

"He has left his mark on this congressional district and will long be remembered."

Davis called O'Brien a "friend, political ally and a congressman who responded to his district."

"He was the type of person who when you met him for the first time, you would say, 'There goes a nice guy,' " Davis said. "He will be missed."

Shawn Collins, the Democratic candidate who was to face O'Brien in November before recent events intervened, said the late congressman was "a good and decent human being, a dedicated and capable legislator who will be missed."

"My wife, Meg, and I extend our sympathy and best wishes to Mrs. O'Brien and the rest of their family."

DeAngelis, who was initially tapped by O'Brien as his first choice of successor, described O'Brien as "quietly effective."

"I never, ever heard anyone say a bad word about George O'Brien," he said. "I, along with my family, am grieved at his death. I know the immense pain and suffering he has gone through. He is now at peace."

High mass will be sung for O'Brien Tuesday at 11 a.m. at the Cathedral of St. Raymond Nonnatus in Joliet. Burial will be at Resurrection mausoleum in Romeoville.

Besides his wife, O'Brien is survived by two daughters and three grandchildren.

Illinois law includes no provision for temporarily replacing a congressman who leaves office within six months of an election.

[From the Chicago Heights Star, July 20, 1986]

As We See It . . . A Fine Man

While political forces tugged and sniped over his congressional seat, U.S. Representative George O'Brien waited out his last days separated against his will both from the Congress he cherished and the constituency back home that he wooed so well.

The Fourth district congressman, who withdrew from the reelection race when it was discovered he had cancer, died Thursday evening. He left the turmoil of political life far too early—too early for him and too early for the voters back home who always gave him solid support.

Prior to illness, he had no thoughts of retirement and would undoubtedly have preferred to be there in the House, in the midst of the current debate over appropriations, he was the ranking Republican on the Appropriations subcommittee of the House Ways and Means committee.

George O'Brien, a moderate Republican, generally worked his congressional responsibilities in quiet ways, but he always stood fast in his position—even when his vote was a crucial one on a controversial matter. He never shied from a tough vote, even near the end. In the waning days of June he returned in a wheelchair from his sick bed to cast a vote favoring aid to the Nicaraguan rebel forces.

That appearance drew an extensive ovation from his congressional colleagues, not only recognizing his courage but because they knew George O'Brien as a friend.

Many of the constituents back in the Fourth district as well regarded him as someone who was more than a government official. He was indeed their representative, answering their call to help with any of the multitude of problems

the ordinary guy faces in government bureaucracy. Representative O'Brien made headlines when he interceded personally in the Mideast on behalf of the Reverend Martin Jenco, one of his Fourth district constituents held hostage in Lebanon. But his quieter day-to-day efforts on behalf of the people here at home won him respect and thousands of votes everytime he ran—from the Will county board of supervisors through the Illinois General Assembly and on to seven terms in the U.S. House of Representatives.

We are among the many who will miss George O'Brien.

[From the Hammond Times, July 20, 1986]

George O'Brien Was a Genuine Leader

Representative George O'Brien's death is saddening as his dedication to his district and country was magnanimous.

He was a leader in every sense of the word. We join so many in mourning his death.

We share the sadness of his family and friends.

We share the sadness of the senior citizen who, frustrated over the federal bureaucracy's lack of understanding of the importance of her missed social security check, found a friend in O'Brien. Her problem wasn't too small for him.

We mourn with the disabled veteran, whose plea for better medical attention was met with dignity and respect by O'Brien. His pain was O'Brien's pain.

We mourn with the public officials in the 4th Congressional District who, when frustrated by the federal government's red tape, procrastination and inconsistency, turned to O'Brien and got answers and action.

We share the sadness of his colleagues in Congress. They witnessed an extraordinary example of O'Brien's fierce dedication last month. O'Brien, his body consumed with cancer, entered the U.S. House chambers in a wheelchair to cast his vote for aid to the Contra rebels in Nicaragua.

President Reagan later told O'Brien his presence in the House that day swayed some votes for the aid package that passed by only 12 ballots.

It is a rare political leader who is credited by his constituency for keeping their interests in mind; and is also credited by a president for playing a key role in a policy issue of major importance to the country.

But O'Brien was a leader in a rare sense. His first labor of love was working hard for his district. When a person had a problem, he worked to solve it. When federal government policy making threatened the well-being of his district, he lashed out, irregardless of the political consequences of his vehemence. He wasn't a good ol' party boy. Compassion, integrity and a deep sense of responsibility to his district guided O'Brien. His politics were passionate, not merely partisan.

O'Brien took great pride in his image as a congressman who gave top priority to the needs of his constituents. He had reason to be proud. He did much for his district.

Without O'Brien's gift of diplomacy and persuasion, the Little Calumet River Watershed Project, a massive flood control project, may not have been funded by the federal government. He also moved the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to force Lake County to meet with Lansing representatives to work out a compromise on controlling Little Calumet River flooding that left Lansing residents knee-deep in water.

O'Brien was instrumental in attempting to resolve Sauk Village's housing problems. He conducted a personal investigation of subsidized housing in the South Cook County suburbs and opened the doors so Sauk Village officials could take their complaints to the federal government.

He brought the federal government to his district in the form of arranging conferences with Department of Defense and Small Business Administration officials in an effort to drive down unemployment. O'Brien vigorously fought efforts by the federal government to cut the funding of a Joliet job training center.

Up until the day he died, he was actively trying to gain the release of Reverend Lawrence Jenco of Joliet, who is being held hostage by Lebanese terrorists. He personnally met with Syrian president Hafez Assad to seek Assad's help in gaining Jenco's release.

Despite his busy agenda, he was always accessible to his constituents. He didn't need a door on his office. It was always open. Constituents and politicans—regardless of party affiliation—entered his office knowing they would be greeted with a warm reception and left knowing they got a fair shake.

That's the kind of thing many of today's office seekers preach in campaigns. They spend millions to get out the message of accountability, but too often the message becomes a myth when they obtain public office.

O'Brien didn't need millions or the media to get his message across. He wasn't a media darling; he endeared himself to his constituency. His ambition was not to launch himself into national prominence. His ambition was to take care of his people.

O'Brien's death leaves a gap in South Cook County's leadership ranks. Filling that gap won't be easy. But we hope whoever does will not be a companion of partisanship, career promoters and political debt masters but, like O'Brien, a friend to the people of the district.

"I didn't know anyone who didn't like him," said James Garrison, O'Brien's former law partner. "He was a success in every sense of the word."

He certainly was. We wish there were more political leaders like George O'Brien.

[From the Joliet Herald-News, July 22, 1986]

O'Brien Is Bid Farewell

(By Lea B. Kerr)

An assemblage of the great and the humble came to say farewell today to George M. O'Brien.

It was fitting for the congressman who mingled with the humble and touched shoulders with the great.

They both were represented today at the Cathedral of St. Raymond Nonnatus when Bishop Joseph L. Imesch celebrated a Mass of Christian Burial for the funeral of the congressman, who died Thursday of cancer at age 69.

Fellow congressmen set aside the business of government for several hours before returning to Washington, D.C., where they had to be back in session at 4:30 p.m. They flew to Chicago's O'Hare Airport today in military planes and were to arrive at the cathedral in chartered buses shortly before the 11 a.m. Mass.

Will County courts were adjourned as judges and lawyers who knew O'Brien at the start of his political career or more than three decades met to pray for him.

In a moving homily, Imesch referred to the scriptures and how they were reflected by O'Brien—a man who went to Washington for 14 years but left part of his heart in Joliet.

Rabbi M.M. Hershman of the Joliet Jewish Congregation quoted Abraham Lincoln: "Every man should so live that he is proud of the place in which he lives and the place should be proud of him."

That George wanted to be brought back home for his eternal rest is indicative that he was proud of Joliet. That we were proud of him in manifested by the great outpouring of his friends. Congressman George was a true and honorable servant of his God, his country, and his fellow man said Hershman who read from the 25th chapter of the prophet Isaiah:

"And on the mountain of the Lord of hosts God will provide for all peoples. On this mountain he will destroy the veil that veils all peoples and the covering that is over all the nations. He will swallow up death for ever and the Lord, God, will wipe away tears from all faces. And the reproach of his people he will remove from the whole earth for the Lord hath spoken it. And it shall be on this day that it will be said 'Lo, this is Our God for whom we waited that he might save us. This is the Lord for whom we waited. We will be glad and rejoice in his salvation."

The Reverend Dave Fillpot of the First Presbyterian Church noted that, amid all of the big issues O'Brien dealt with daily, "he never was too busy to take time to be concerned about the problems of some individual, whether it was a young person applying for a military academy or a veteran having problems getting help from the Veterans Administration. George O'Brien took time to help."

Fillpot gave a reading from 1 John 3, 1-2: "See what love the father has bestowed on us, in letting us be called children of God. Yet that in fact is what we are. The reason the world does not recognize us is that it never recognized the son. Dearly beloved we are God's children now; what we shall later be has not yet come to light. We know that when it comes to light we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. This is the word of the Lord."

The cocelebrants at the Mass were Auxiliary Bishop Raymond Vonesh; Monsignor Armand Rotondi; the Reverend Stanley Orlikiewicz, pastor of St. Raymond's, and the Reverend Vytas Memenas of St. Patrick's Church and also the Joliet Police Department chaplain.

O'Brien was extolled for his warmth of personality, his genuine concern for people. His keen sense of fairness and his sense of humor were also touched upon as fellow congressmen spoke of their relationships through the years. Alan J. Dixon, D-Ill., represented the Senate. Carlos J. Moorhead, from the 22nd Congressional District in California, spoke for the House of Representatives. O'Brien who served in the U.S. Air Force during World War II, was given a funeral with full military honors. Eight high ranking officers from various branches of service were pallbearers.

After the usual 8 a.m. Mass today, the cathedral was closed to the public. Secret Service agents searched the premises before doors were reopened at 10 a.m. Family, congressmen and other dignitaries and the public then were allowed through the front doors.

At the cemetery, a final tribute was presentation of a U.S. flag to O'Brien's widow, Mary Lou.

[From the Daily Calumet, July 23, 1986]

O'Brien Remembered by His Many Friends

(By Susan Kuczka)

Representative George O'Brien, who died of cancer last week, Tuesday was remembered as a sincere man who voted his conscience.

About 800 people gathered at the Cathedral of St. Raymond to pay their final respects to the 69-year-old Illinois Republican who died of cancer. Bishop Joseph Imesch of the Catholic diocese of Joliet called O'Brien "a man above partisan politics who voted his conscience."

Eight pallbearers represented the five branches of military service in carrying O'Brien's coffin, which was draped with the America flag.

Among those attending the 90-minute service were Barbara Bush, wife of Vice President George Bush; Illinois' two senators; and dozens of O'Brien's House colleagues.

"He was a very dedicated public man, sincere in everything he did," said Senator Alan Dixon, D-Ill. "He wasn't concerned about who got credit. He did it the quiet way."

Imesch noted that despite his illness, O'Brien went to Syria to try to gain the release of American hostages, including the Reverend Lawrence Martin Jenco of Joliet.

"I don't know if any one person can obtain the release of Jenco and the other American hostages, but at least George O'Brien tried," the bishop said.

He termed the seven-term congressman "a very special person. He was beholden to no one and even more, he never changed from the first time he was elected."

In May, O'Brien announced he was withdrawing from the campaign for a new term because he was suffering from prostate cancer.

He was the top-ranking Republican on an Appropriations subcommittee and was respected as a conscientious worker who kept track of details and preferred to be effective rather than partisan. O'Brien gained national attention in 1979 when he challenged a pay raise for congressmen.

[From the Joliet Herald-News, July 23, 1986]

O'Brien's Mark Stays With Friends Near and Far

(By Lea E. Kerr)

A neighbor's dog barked sharply at the sound of the gunshot salute at Resurrection Cemetery, where George O'Brien was entombed after funeral services Tuesday.

Then there was silence as U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Kevin Cordt of Bolling Air Force base in Washington, DC, sounded Taps.

First Lt. Kim McEvers of the U.S. Army gave a long, final salute after handing the folded flag that had covered the casket to the congressmen's wife, Mary Lou.

And a chapter in U.S. congressional history ended. But its mark remains with the people at home and those from far away.

Senator Alan Dixon, D-Ill., spoke of O'Brien's dedication, even in the waning days of his life when he left a sickbed to vote on the Contra aid issue. Dixon, his voice choked with emotion, said:

"That great, strong man and now very thin from his illness, his face wracked with pain . . . And he said, 'I am here on a highly controversial matter to cast my vote. And isn't it wonderful we can disagree on a vote and walk away friends.' "

O'Brien died Thursday from cancer. It led to his May 16 withdrawal as a candidate for re-election, after 14 years in Congress.

Representative Carlos Moorhead, R-Calif., speaking for the House of Representatives, said: "If he entered a room it was a brighter day. He remains alive in our hearts. The memories of those of us who had the privilege of knowing him will always be rich."

And the people from home, some of whom knew O'Brien through chance meetings, talked about how he touched their lives.

Mary Gerat of Joliet met the O'Briens in volunteer work at Silver Cross Hospital on a Valentine's Day.

"They came to distribute roses to patients," she said. "I wanted to see the funeral and pay respects. They were more than just Mr. and Mrs. O'Brien."

Matthew Dulny of Plainfield said, "George was at awfully nice guy. I met him a couple of years ago. I told him I thought he was doing a fairly good job. He was very friendly. I looked up to him as a friend, not as a congressman. I hate to see him go."

Marjorie Johnson of Joliet Job Corps described him as a "very warm person who cared for the students. He was soft-spoken, but he was outspoken (when it came to helping young people)."

James Garrison, a former law partner, said, "He was like a second father to me. He was the god-father to my daughters here, Julie and Susan."

The Reverend Vytas Memenas of St. Patrick's Church met O'Brien in 1972, when Memenas was a pastor in Mokena.

"I last saw him May 15 when I was in Washington for National Police Week," said the Joliet police and Fire Department chaplain.

"He was one of the most decent politicians I ever met. If he said yes or no, it was yes or no, not any ifs or buts. When he said he would do something, he put his heart and soul into it, like the Father Jenco case."

Memenas was referring to O'Brien's efforts to free the Reverend Lawrence Jenco, held hostage in Lebanon.

Millie Rydman of Joliet, a life-time Democrat, said the Republican affiliation did not matter.

"I liked the man for what he is. He did a lot for the people of Joliet," she said.

Bob Neal and his wife, Pat, met in O'Brien's office as volunteers. Neal is district representative for the Joliet office, which will stay open until the official end of his term in January 1987.

Neal recalled the many times he would drive O'Brien home to Joliet from a Chicago airport after lengthy sessions in Congress.

"So many times he was dog tired. And as we talked he would be sound asleep. I told Mrs. O'Brien (at the funeral visitation) that he looked just like I had talked him to sleep."

[From Roll Call, July 24, 1986]

GEORGE O'BRIEN

(By Sid Yudain)

In 1982, two Illinois districts were incorporated into one under redistricting, pitting incumbent Representatives Ed Derwinski and GEORGE O'BRIEN against each other in the Republican primary.

Derwinski, a tall, stocky, crew-cutted, amiable veteran, was a popular and respected figure both at home and in Washington, where he was ranking member of the House Post Office and Civil Service Committee and an important member of the Foreign Affairs Committee.

O'BRIEN, junior to Derwinski in service but senior in years, was a gray-haired, quiet but witty junior member of the Appropriations Committee.

Political observers speculated that Derwinski, who had always won reelection by large margins, would win the primary. However, his campaign was regarded as uninspired, and although he made a good showing, he lost to O'BRIEN by some 2,000 votes.

After the primary, Derwinski was asked what went wrong. "Nothing," he replied. "I just didn't have my heart in it. GEORGE is my friend, we agree on most everything, and besides, he's just not the type of opponent you can go out and attack. He's too nice of a guy."

You don't hear that very often in politics. But that was the general opinion around here.

GEORGE O'BRIEN was a good and conscientious legislator and a nice guy. He will be missed.

[From Roll Call, July 24, 1986]

LONG HOUSE TENURE OF REPRESENTATIVE O'BRIEN ENDS

(By Elizabeth Edwards)

The 4th District of Illinois, represented for 14 years by Republican Representative GEORGE O'BRIEN, suddenly has become a focus of political maneuvering and some heated controversy among district Democrats.

O'BRIEN died last Thursday from complications of prostate cancer. Although he ran unopposed in his March district primary, he announced in May that he wouldn't seek reelection because of his health problems. Announcement of his political departure touched off something of a scramble in this traditionally Republican-leaning district as Democrats began thinking about maximizing new political opportunities.

Now his death, so soon after announcement of his retirement, has saddened colleagues, many of whom traveled to his home district this week to attend his Tuesday funeral. The 4th District sits along the southern edge of metropolitan Chicago and encompasses such areas as Calumet City, Lansing and Chicago Heights. In the center is Joliet.

It was drawn by Democrats as a Republican district after the last census, and the late Representative O'BRIEN had to fend off a primary challenge from Republican Representative Edward Derwinski, whose district had been meshed with O'BRIEN's.

O'BRIEN served many years on Appropriations and was ranking member of its subcommittee on commerce, justice, state and judiciary. Before reaching the House in 1971, he served in the forerunner to the Air Force in World War II, was a member of the Will County Board of Supervisors and was a practicing attorney for nearly six years.

He was a dominant political force in the district, and his departure has split Democrats over the question of how best to respond to new opportunities in the district.

After the O'BRIEN, announcement that he would relinquish the seat, a special Republican convention of precinct and township committeemen met July 12 and selected Jack Davis, a state representative from New Lennox, as the party's nominee.

The announcement of Davis as candidate triggered a scramble for a seat that most politicians previously considered safely in the hands of Republicans. "With Representative O'BRIEN not in the picture, it's basically a horse race now," says Ted Cormaney, the late Congressman's press assistant. "But I would give the edge to the Republicans."

Davis' competitor is Shawn Collins, a 28-year-old attorney and new resident of the 4th, who generally was deemed a throwaway candidate against incumbent O'BRIEN. Now the campaign climate is hotter as Collins and Davis both struggle for name recognition.

[From the Chicago Sun-Times, July 28, 1986]

O'BRIEN'S CRUSADE ENDS IN VICTORY

(By Larry Finley)

Joliet's Representative GEORGE M. O'BRIEN spent the last months of his life on a personal crusade for the release of the Reverend Lawrence Martin Jenco.

O'BRIEN, 69, died just 11 days ago, but his tireless work to free the priest, held hostage in Lebanon until Saturday, was still being praised yesterday by Jenco's family and O'BRIEN'S colleagues.

And Mae Mihelich, one of Jenco's sisters, said O'BRIEN had a little help.

"His dream was to see Father Martin before he died," she said. "He went to heaven and said, 'God, here I am. Let's see what we can do.' "

When O'BRIEN'S funeral was held last Tuesday in St. Raymond's Cathedral in Joliet, all the nearby trees were wrapped with yellow ribbons, the Jenco family's symbol of remembrance for the priest.

"I wish that Congressman GEORGE O'BRIEN were here to rejoice with the Jenco family," Senator Alan J. Dixon (D-Ill.) said. "George worked so hard with me as part of the effort of so many people to free Father Jenco."

"There is no question O'BRIEN'S efforts were part of the solution," said David Carle, spokesman for Senator Paul Simon (D-Ill.). "They could have been crucial."

O'BRIEN, a personal friend of Joseph Jenco, the priest's brother, took up the cause when the priest was kidnapped in January of last year. He personally met with Syrian President Hafez Assad last year to ask him to help free Jenco and the other U.S. hostages.

O'BRIEN'S Washington offices became headquarters for the family when they went there to talk to government officials.

"We asked for his help, and he decided he was going to do everything he could," said Mae Mihelich's son, David, 25. "He really helped the family out when they were in Washington. He had a lot of people on his staff working on just that."

O'Brien's widow, Mary Lou, and Simon's wife, Jeanne, were on hand in Washington to greet the 10 members of the Jenco family on their way to West Germany for the reunion.

Carle said the entire Illinois congressional delegation met last week and agreed to send a letter, in O'Brien's memory, to Assad asking him to intercede.

[From the Joliet Herald-News]

Services Set for O'Brien

(By Staff and Robert Estill)

The George O'Brien era is over.

The body of the late U.S. congressman from Joliet was to arrive via Air Force One at O'Hare International Airport in Chicago today.

The Republican loyalist who served the 4th Congressional District for 14 years died Thursday evening at the National Cancer Institute in Bethesda, Md., at age 69.

Bishop Joseph Imesch, head of the Joliet Diocese, will officiate at an 11 a.m. Mass of Christian Burial here Tuesday at the Cathedral of St. Raymond Nonnatus.

O'Brien's body will be buried in Romeoville at Resurrection Mausoleum. His pall bearers will be his nephews, many of whom worked with him during his congressional years.

He is survived by his wife, the former Mary Lou Peyla; and two daughters, Debra Pershey of Chicago and Caryl Bloch of Los Angeles.

Flags were at half staff at the Joliet Municipal Building, the Will County Building and the Will County Courthouse in honor of the congressman who never forgot the folks back home. And they never forgot him, electing him to seven consecutive terms.

Lieutenant Governor George Ryan will attend O'Brien's funeral, along with congressmen and senators from Washington. Under normal House procedure, officials charter an Air Force plane to transport the congressmen to their colleagues' funerals, said O'Brien's press secretary Ted Cormaney.

"He was one of the authentic nice guys of Washington," said Cormaney, a longtime associate. "He always had a good joke to tell you. He wasn't just a boss or an employer. He was also a great friend."

Cormaney said that before O'Brien was beset by illness, the congressman had envisioned spending two more terms in the House and then retiring "to a comfy ambassadorship in some warm climate—like Ireland."

He also had hoped to see his friend and former colleague, Vice President George Bush, elected president, Cormaney said.

Bush said, "Barbara and I send our deepest sympathies to the family and friends of George O'Brien. All of us who knew him, worked with him and shared his concerns for America know that this country has lost an important voice in its national leadership. I'll always treasure this friendship."

"He did not have an enemy in the world," said Representative Henry Hyde, R-Bensenville, who made the dramatic announcement on the House floor Thursday night that O'Brien had died.

"His friends were legion. If the word 'beloved' can be used by any group of people, "then that's the word to describe everybody's feelings around here. He was a beloved guy."

Before adjourning for the night, his colleagues in the House paid tribute to O'Brien by passing a resolution mourning his death.

Hyde made the announcement because House Minority Leader Bob Michel, R-Peoria, was absent, Michel's office later released a statement from the GOP leader, a close friend who had helped O'Brien win his seat on the House Appropriations Committee. Michel said O'Brien's death is a "great loss for me both personally and professionally."

"I am sure he will always be remembered as a man of integrity, gentility and compassion," Michel said. "He was a good human being and politician who brought honor and dignity to the profession. Our state and our nation will miss him."

Edward Derwinski, state department counselor to Secretary of State George Shultz, heard of O'Brien's death which traveling in the Cook Islands in the South Pacific on state department business.

"George O'Brien's death is a terrible loss," Derwinski said. "He was a great man whom I valued both as an old and dear friend and a colleague for many years. He exemplified the best kind of public servant."

Derwinski, a former congressman who used to ride to work with O'Brien, was one of the people considered as O'Brien's replacement when he withdrew from the election. Derwinski and O'Brien were forced to run against each other in 1982 when the congressional districts were redrawn.

State Representative Dennis Hastert, R-Yorkville, said, "My family and I are saddened to learn of the death of George M. O'Brien. In his more than a decade in Congress he was a servant of the people in every sense. He was a true Republican and a strong supporter of President Reagan. His passing is a loss to residents of the 4th Congressional District and to everyone in Illinois. I worked and campaigned with George many times since I was elected to the general assembly. He was a fine colleague and a fine person. He will be missed."

O'Brien's death seemed to be felt as deeply by Democrats as Republicans.

"George was an old-time friend, probably one of the most decent Republicans I have ever known," said Representative Dan Rostenkowski, D-Chicago, chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee.

Rostenkowski said O'Brien "said it all" about his character when, gaunt and visibly weak, he left a sickbed June 25 at Michel's request to cast a vote for aid to Contra rebels in Nicaragua sought by President Reagan. It was O'Brien's last appearance on the House floor.

"George, in his fight for life, epitomized the kind of person that he was. He was a positive thinker, and I would almost make the observation that he legislated his loves and not his dislikes."

Chris Matthews, press secretary to House Speaker Thomas O'Neill, Jr., D-Mass., said O'Neill was in Massachusetts Thursday night but added:

"I know he thought highly of him, that he was a great member of the Congress. . . . Even though they were in different parties, they respected each other tremendously."

"He was an honorable and superb public servant," said Senator Paul Simon, D-Ill. "He was kind and he was genuine. He had a good sense of where partnership gives way to cooperation."

Senator Alan Dixon, D-Ill., said "This is a sudden and tragic personal shock. George O'Brien and I had served together for years in the Illinois Legislature and more recently had become quite close here in Washington. Professionally, George was always a dedicated and hard-working public servant, and his loss will be deeply felt by Illinois and the nation."

[From the Catholic Standard]

George M. O'Brien Invictus!

We first became aware of George M. O'Brien just over five years ago. We were "warned" that this would be a "non-productive" relationship, he was "Reagan's man", and that he had little sensitivity for this portion of the congressional district. The warnings were wrong.

George showed his interest and sensitivities time and time again, by such acts as, working to preserve and enhance the mission of the Joliet Job Corps Center, wading ankle-deep water in East Chicago Heights to personally see the devasting effects of flooding caused by the Little Calumet River Watershed, and the countless meetings, luncheons, and accountability sessions he conducted for constituents. He wasn't very difficult to see or to have access to.

O'Brien's "Open Door Policy for District Residents" could well serve as a model for Chicago congressmen who are almost nonexistent except at election time.

On more than one occasion, he "went to bat" for constituents with the military, small business administration, and in some cases "did the job" for constituents of 2nd District Congressman Gus Savage, and 3rd District Congressman Marty Russo.

His office in the district was austere, almost Spartan, furnished with chair, desk, and flag. A sense of the man is felt even when the office was empty. We referred countless area residents, with hundreds of problems and questions to him; all were seen, all were served.

The Standard was the only other newspaper to endorse O'Brien in his primary campaign against fellow Republican Edward Derwinski for the new 4th District seat. The choice was not easy, as Derwinski is a very creditable foe, and was a darn good congressman. It was the sensing of the "humane" side of O'Brien that touched us. The rest is history.

On many occasions, we received thanks from persons whom we referred to O'Brien. None of these callers ever said he's O.K. for a Republican, or an "administration man." He was simply Congressman O'Brien. We had our share of personal phone calls and he used his Irish-green (pardon) Kelly-green inked pen to sign letters and greetings from he and his lovely wife, Mary Lou. Senior citizens loved him, and respected him. Social Service agencies in his district found him to be a real friend. He only needed to be told where he could help, and he would.

When we reflect over these few years of friendship, and his relationship of man to his politics, and district, we think of him as George M. O'Brien Invictus.

"I am the master of my fate; I am the captain of my soul." (from the poem "Invictus")

O'Brien now stands down from an "easy win" in the coming campaign for re-election because of health reasons. The battle for succession will be on. Both parties are re-aligning strengths, rethinking strategies, and neglecting the fact that the 4th District is one of the real problem areas outside of Chicago.

Unemployment ranks a high, as former industrial areas, Chicago Heights, Joliet, and Aurora are practically ghost towns littered with empty factories, abandoned homes and hopeless persons. Care and thought should be given to the selection of O'Brien's heir.

The Standard wishes George M. O'Brien the best of everything and he has our respect and admiration. Exercising poetic, as well as editorial license, we stand with him in November when he will turn to the House of Representatives he served so well and say.

"Sail on O ship of State
Sail on O union strong and great
Humanity with all his fears
With all its hopes for future years
Hang breathless on the fate!"
Building of the Ship—Longfellow.

Role Models

(By Maurice Berlinsky)

Ideal and true role models Representative George O'Brien and Mary Lou Peyla O'Brien.

Last week at St. Raymond's Cathedral I was present with hundreds of others for the final farewell to Representative George.

George in his farewll act brought together Christian and Jew in harmony as I have never witnessed before in our over all community Reverend Imesch, Bishop of Joliet, created the climate for this lofty ecumenical atmosphere. I must add the spirit of Bishop Romeo Blanchette lives on.

Many fond memories of Representative George have been enumerated since his tragic demise as a result of his long suffering illness. All are true. I also had many contacts with George and numerous notes were exchanged between us.

The last was dated June 11, 1985, wherein he acknowledged receiving a snap shot I mailed him in Washington taken the night of his last election in his headquarters with Bill Scott. Quoting one of his lines "Pictures taken the night of election, particularly the one with Bill Scott. It seems to be filled with the joy of victory, old friend." That was Representative O'Brien.

My overriding image and memory I will always carry is the role model of Mary Lou and George. He was a dedicated and loyal public servant we all agree, the other side was the loyalty and affection of Mary Lou. They lived a life of devotion to each other. Where there was George—there was Mary Lou. They were endowed by nature with beautiful physical features but more so the inner beauty of one for the other was apparent with each gesture and act.

They reflected role models in political service and in marriage. Role models we all can point to in the years to come. Take a heart warming look, younger generation. There was a role model for all of us. This is the lasting heritage of the O'Briens.

Remembers O'Brien

(By Ben and Bertha Koger)

It was our privilege to meet Congressman O'Brien when he was U.S. Representative for what was then the 17th District. He had decided to sponsor a Congressional Senior Intern program. I received the honor of being the first recipient of this award for which I shall ever be grateful. For two weeks, we were his guest in Washington, D.C., working in his office with his staff, observing Congress in session and touring the sights of the city. Ben, my husband accompanied me.

We met a man with great personal charm, high standards and one excited about the task at hand. He was greatly concerned about programs that support the needs of that ever growing population *senior citizens.* Not just the ill or infirm or minorities, but programs that support seniors who, as a result of their experience and wisdom, are still productive and active. Programs that provided opportunities and better ways to utilize their valuable experience.

We met a man of highest integrity, sincere in his purpose and who, in an intelligent way, looked at the problems. We met a kind man, a genuine man with a loving Christian spirit.

The nation has lost an exceptionally fine citizen. We are saddened by his death.

Our deepest sympathy to his sweet and darling wife, Mary Lou, who was ever by his side, and the members of his family. May God grant him eternal rest is our prayer. Sorrowfully.

Father Jenco and the Man He Never Met

(By Sister Elizabeth Ann Murphy, OP)

If the family of Father Lawrence Martin Jenco was present in St. Raymond's Cathedral in Joliet the morning of July 22, they would have heard Rabbi Morris Hershman proclaiming these words of Isaiah:

"On this mountain the Lord of hosts will provide for all peoples. He will destroy the veil that veils all peoples, the web that is woven over all nations: he will destroy death forever. The Lord God will wipe away tears from all faces. On that day it will be said, 'Behold our God, to whom we look to save us! This is the Lord for whom we looked; let us rejoice and be glad that He has saved us!'"

Now those words ring in my heart as an expression of wondrous thanksgiving for the release of Father Jenco after 564 days of captivity in Lebanon. But just four days before the joyful news of Father Jenco's release, they were bittersweet words expressing sorrow at the death of my cousin, Congressman George O'Brien, and expressing hope for his rebirth into eternal life.

Yet even then, I thought of Father Jenco of Joliet. The life of my cousin was inextricably bound to the priest whom he had never met. In Congressman O'Brien's casket was a bouquet of yellow roses and a photo of the Father Jenco. Around it was written, "Free the captives."

Those bright flowers and that longing plea stood in striking contrast to the drawn bespectacled face which was, not long before, animated with gentleness and joy.

As I prayed at the casket a deep sorrow struck me. George had tried so hard to gain Father Jenco's release but had not accomplished it. Even his

meeting with Syrian President Assad failed to yield results. Realizing the possibility that Father Jenco was already freed in death, I wondered if perhaps the congressman had already found the priest.

It was a sad thought and I hope it wasn't so. Then I wondered if perhaps GEORGE could somehow accomplish what he did not achieve in life. My prayer of sadness became a prayer of conviction that the paths of these two men had crossed or would cross soon.

In the days following GEORGE's funeral, I reflected on the beauty of the liturgy. How wonderful it was that Rabbi Hershman, a longtime friend of the Catholic community in Joliet, was able to proclaim to us the prophetic wisdom of his brother Isaiah. How appropriate those words were for GEORGE, and how appropriate they would be another day when the Church of Joliet welcomed home, in life or death, their brother Martin Jenco.

I reflected, too, on the flag flown at half-mast and the fresh yellow ribbon wrapped around the oak trees at the cathedral. The first was a sign of respect for one lost in death, the second; a symbol of enduring hope for one lost in life. I wondered about the intersection of those two lives, which were symbolically present in flag and yellow ribbon. I wondered how and when they would touch and did not doubt that they would one day.

Now, just a week after the celebration of GEORGE's birth into life, Father Jenco has been sent home.

The rabbi's strong voice still echoes in my heart: "This is the Lord for whom we looked; let us rejoice and be glad that. He saved us."

The paths of Father Martin Jenco and GEORGE O'BRIEN never crossed while the congressman was alive. But in a way I may never fully understand—through life and death, liberty and resurrection—they have embraced. They will be, in the lives of their families and friends, a tremendous sign of the intervening power of a God who loves his people intimately and always.

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